SPAWN
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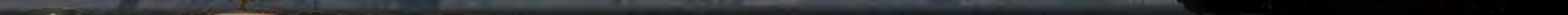
SHADOWS OF SPAWN
VOL. 1


SPAWN
SHADOWS OF SPAWN
Juzo Tokoro

SHADOWS OF SPAWN VOL. 1

STORY & ART
JUZO TOKORO

LETTERING
AVALON STUDIOS

COVER
JUZO TOKORO
BRIAN HABERLIN

TRANSLATION
FRANCIS TAKENAGA

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SHADOWS OF
SPAWN
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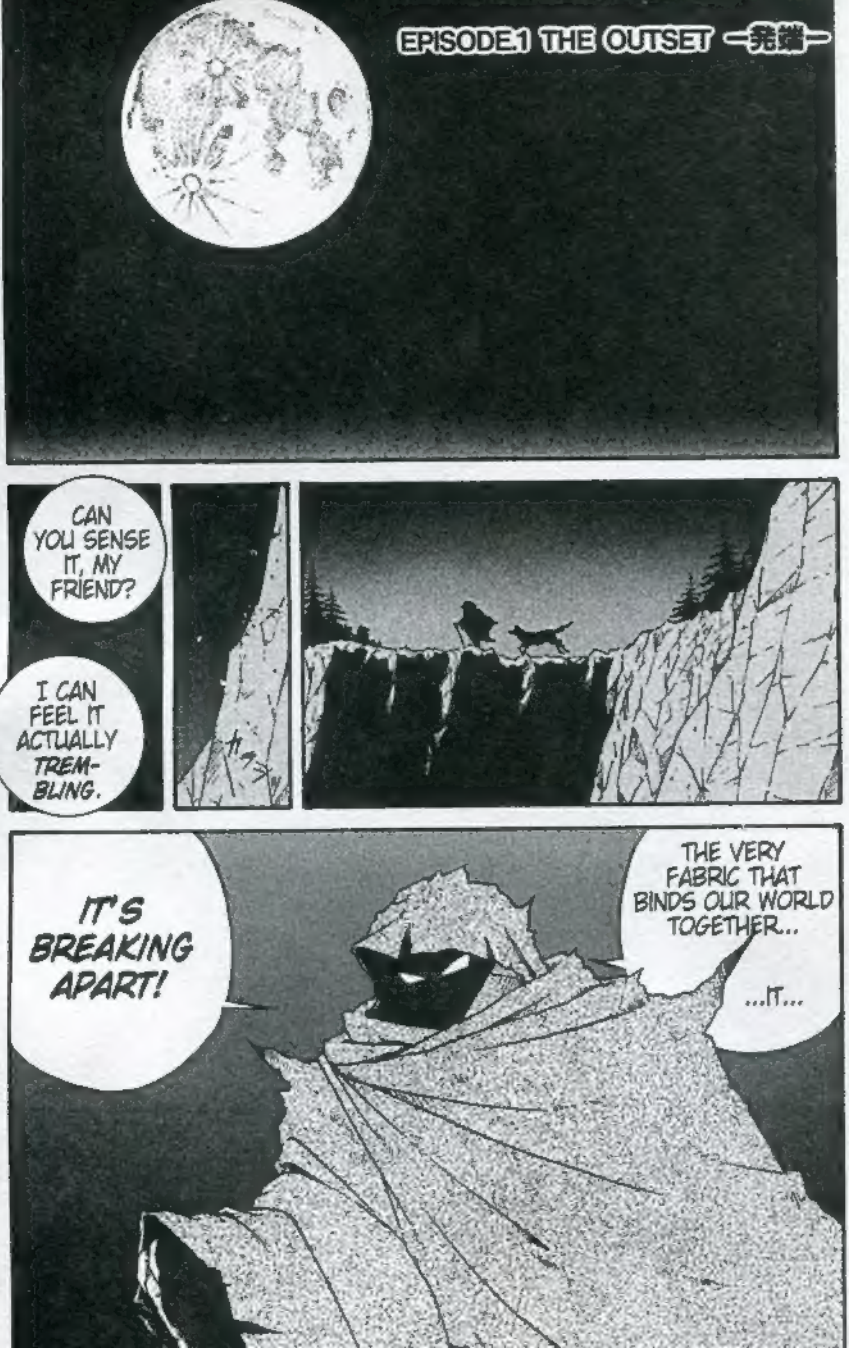
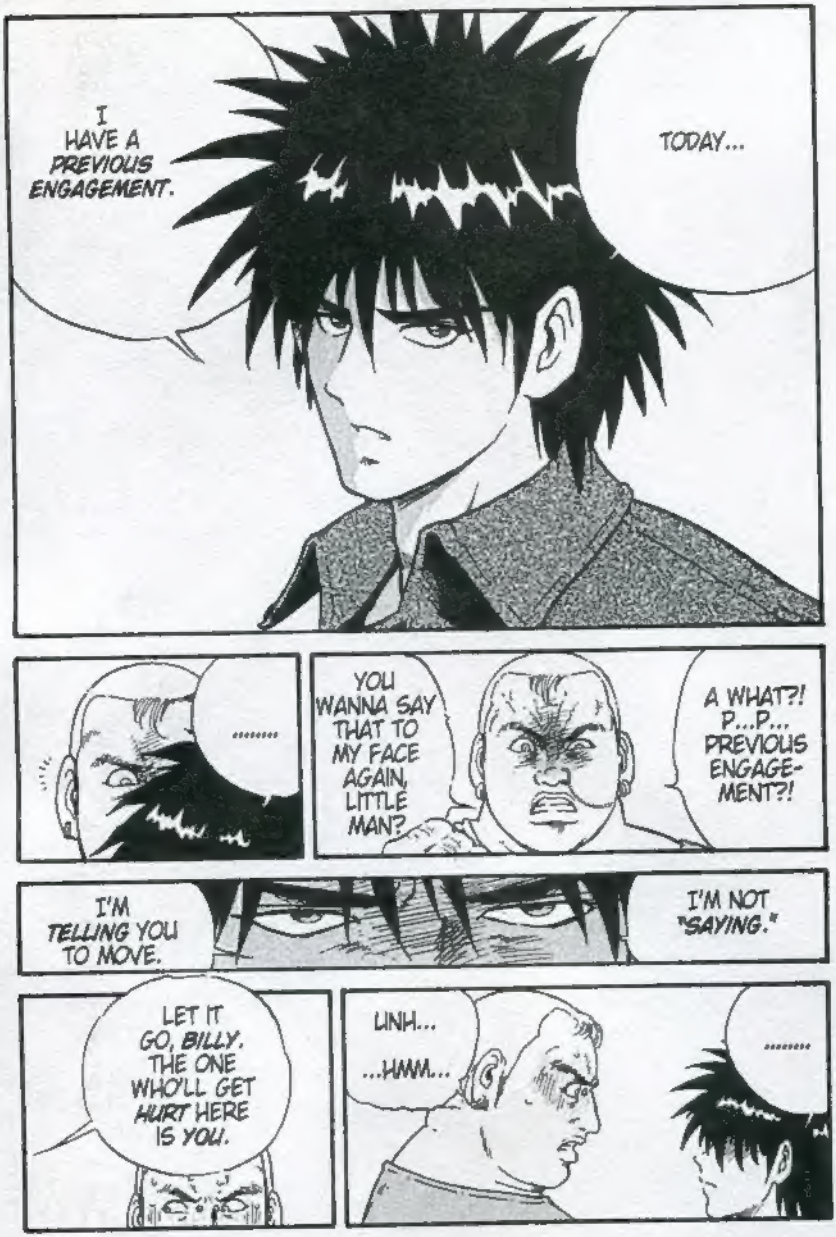
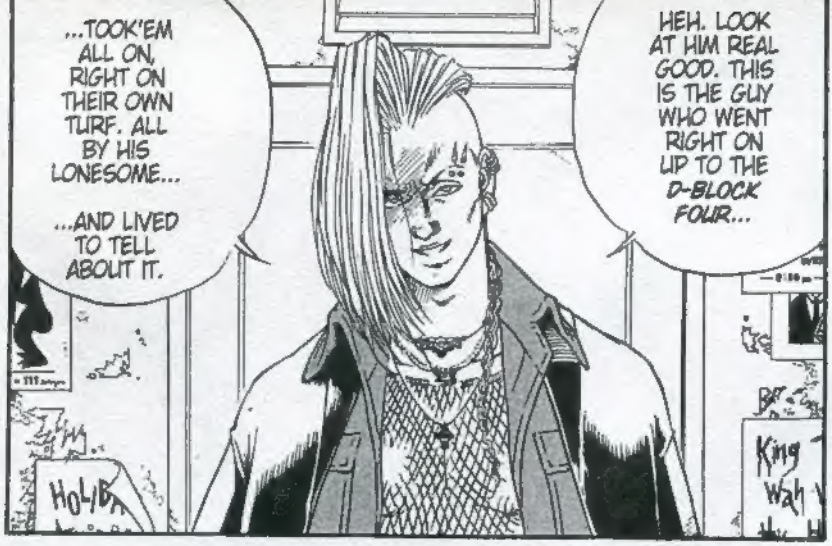

EPISODE.1 THE OUTSET —発端—
CAN YOU SENSE IT, MY FRIEND?
I CAN FEEL IT ACTUALLY TREM-BLING.
IT'S BREAKING APART!
THE VERY FABRIC THAT BINDS OUR WORLD TOGETHER...
...IT...

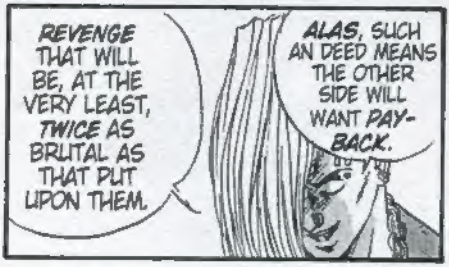
IT'S BEEN 400 YEARS. MORE THAN AN ETERNITY SINCE *THAT* DAY.
huff
huff
huff
THEY'RE TRYING TO *TEAR* THE *RIFT* OPEN AGAIN.
huff
huff
400 YEARS AND THEY'RE STILL LOOKING TO START IT... THEY'RE **MAD.**
huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
MY OWN BODY IS STILL *ADJUSTING* TO THIS...STATE. AND ALL FOR *ONE REASON* ALONE...
I KNOW. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH THEIR LUNGS ON FIRE.
LET'S GO, MY FRIEND.
I'M THROUGH *SACRIFICING* FOR THIS CAUSE.

TO BE READY WHEN THE GREAT BATTLE BEGINS!!!

Los Angeles
HEY, MAN, COME ON! YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T JUST BAIL LIKE THAT.
BOSS DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD LEAVE, YET.
WHOA! HOLD ON, THERE, DOUBLE-K.
...SO SIT YOUR ASS DOWN, YA LITTLE KARATE MONKEY.
THIS AIN'T ABOUT SWALLOWIN' YOUR PRIDE...
MOVE.


I HAVE A *PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT.*
TODAY...
.....
YOU WANNA SAY THAT TO MY FACE AGAIN, LITTLE MAN?
A WHAT?! P...P... PREVIOUS ENGAGE-MENT?!
I'M *TELLING* YOU TO MOVE.
I'M NOT *"SAYING."*
LET IT *GO, BILLY.* THE ONE WHO'LL GET *HURT* HERE IS *YOU.*
UNH...
...HMM...
.....

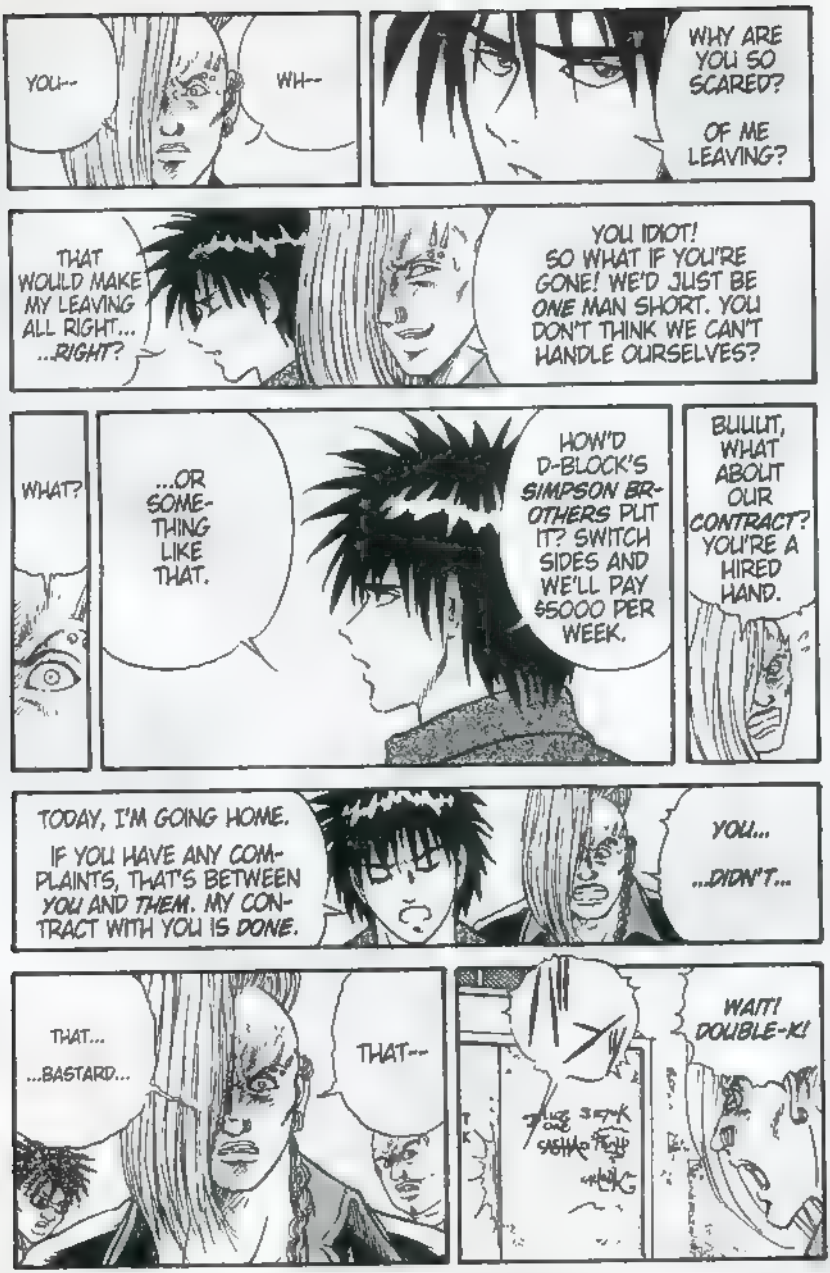

...TOOK'EM ALL ON, RIGHT ON THEIR OWN TURF. ALL BY HIS LONESOME...
...AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT.
HEH. LOOK AT HIM REAL GOOD. THIS IS THE GUY WHO WENT RIGHT ON UP TO THE D-BLOCK FOUR...
HOLIBA
King Wah

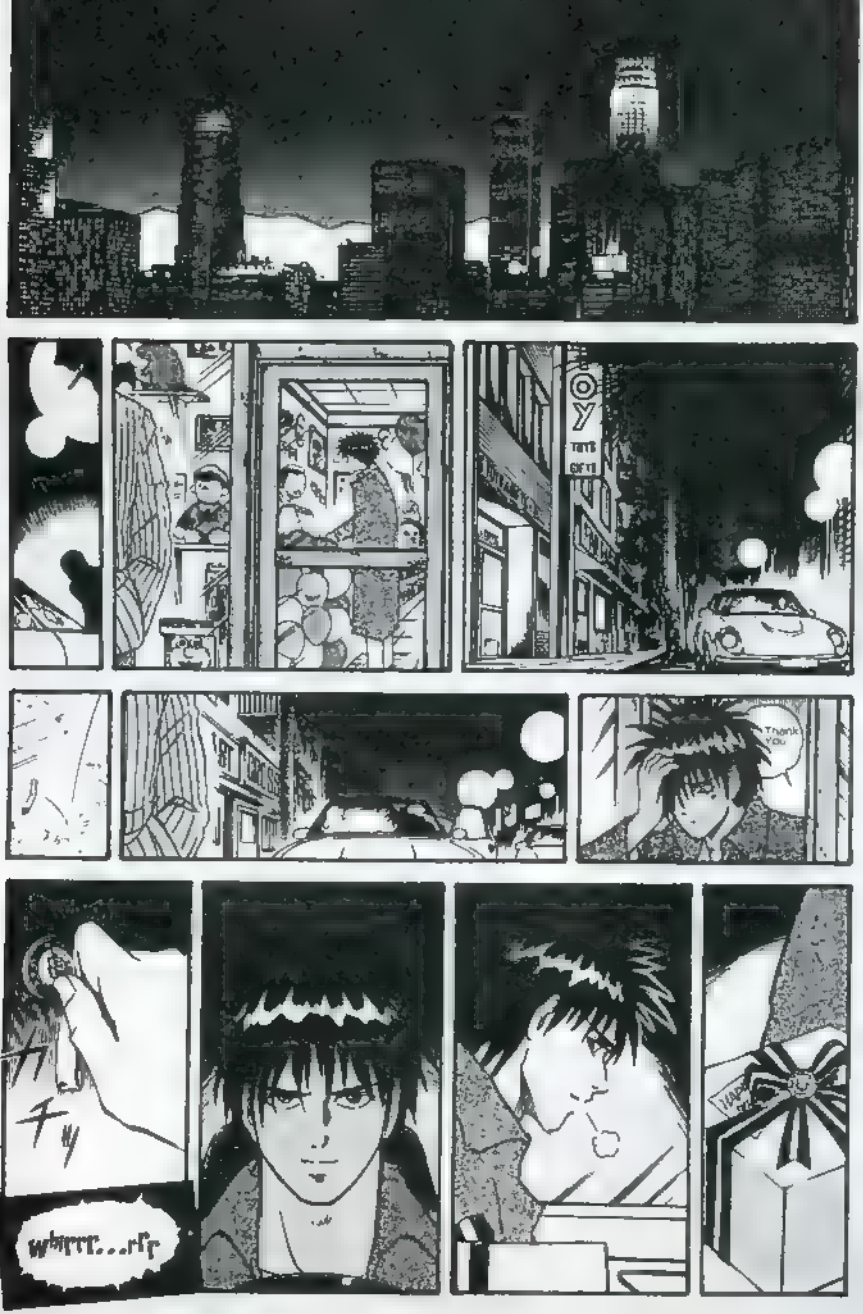

REVENGE THAT WILL BE, AT THE VERY LEAST, TWICE AS BRUTAL AS THAT PUT UPON THEM.
ALAS, SUCH AN DEED MEANS THE OTHER SIDE WILL WANT PAY-BACK.

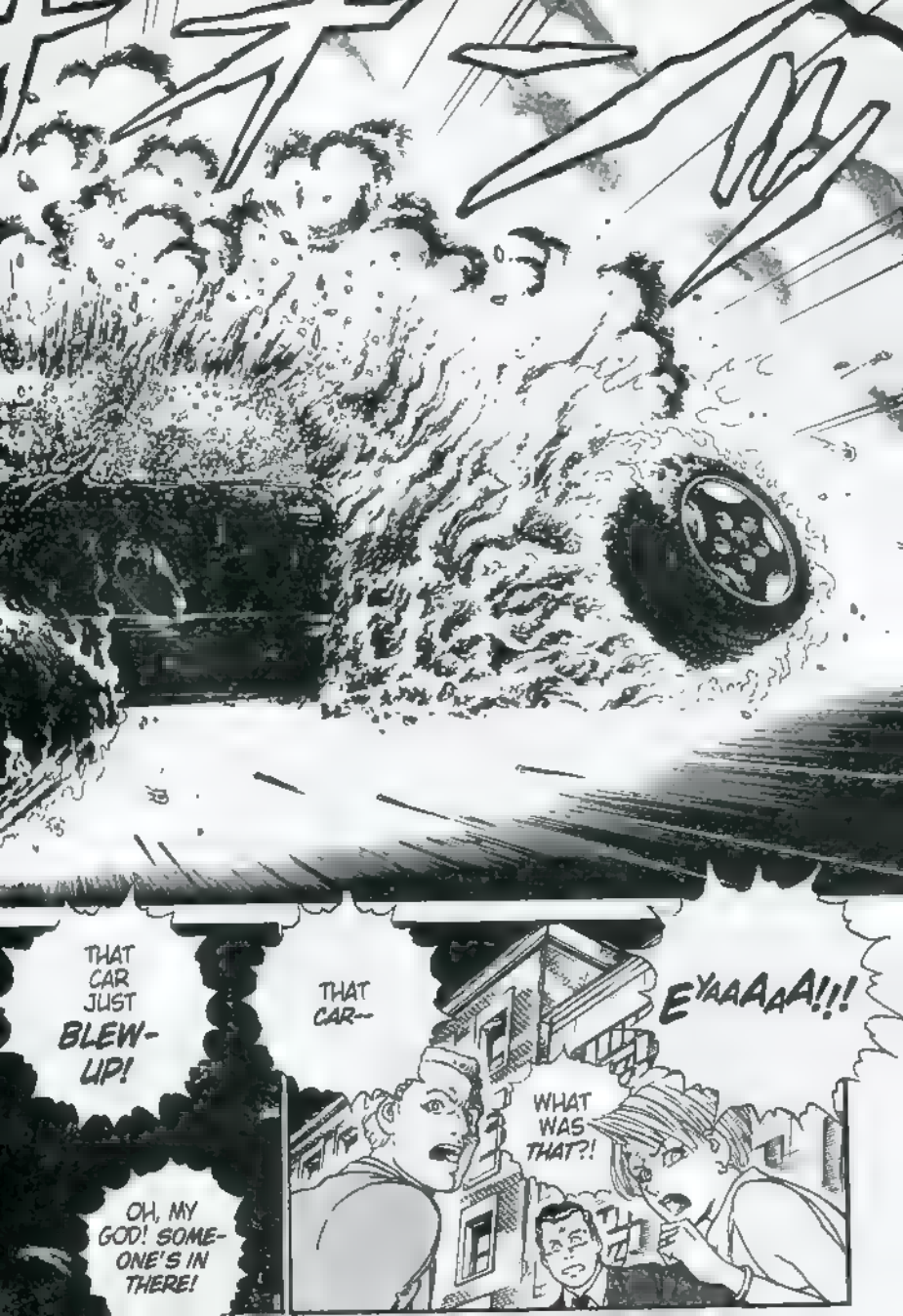
THAT MEAN WE CAN PULL A BIG JOB, NOW? NO COM-PETITION, RIGHT?
WHOO!

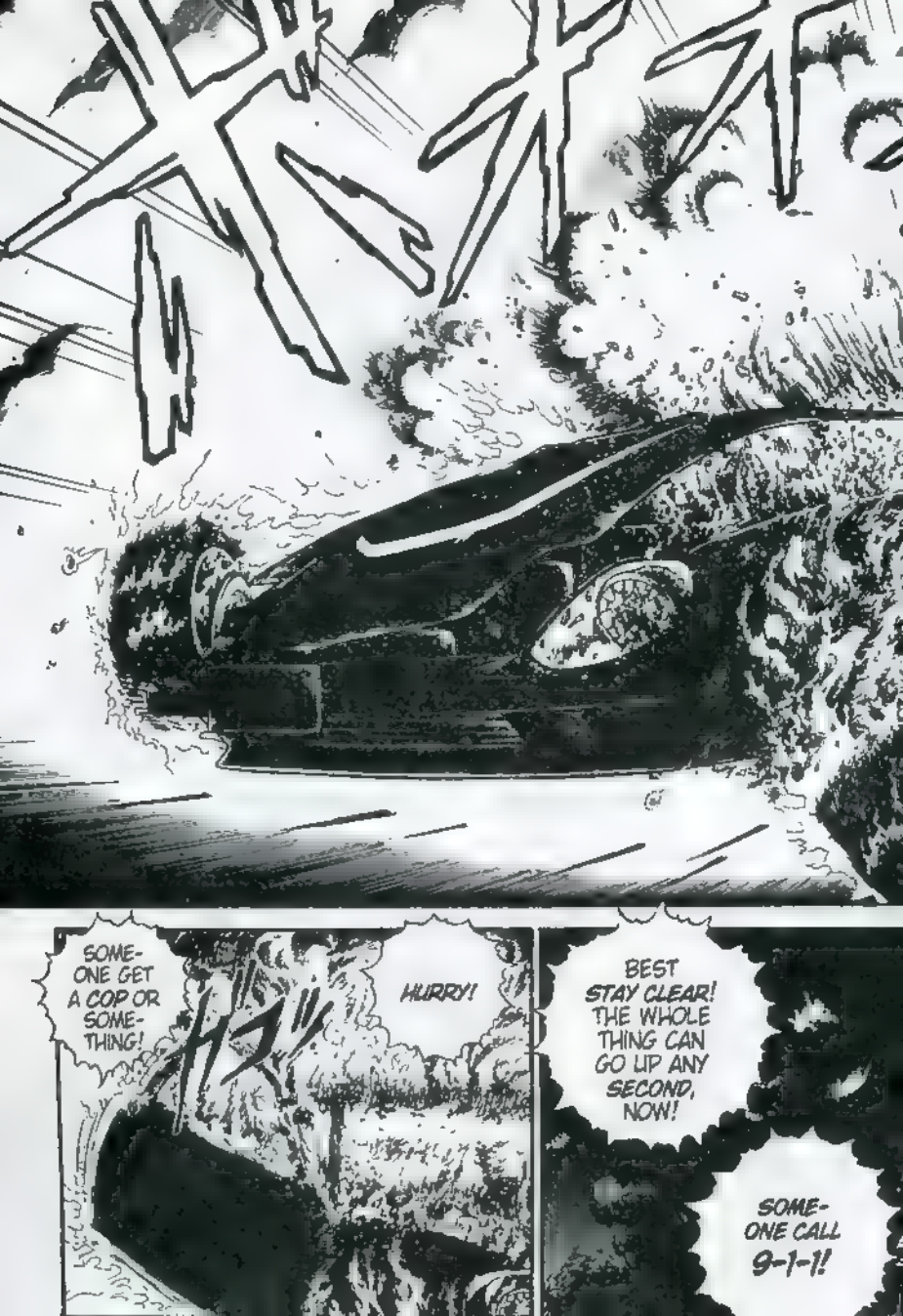
AFTER ALL, IT WAS YOU WHO WENT IN THERE AND STIRRED-UP THIS LITTLE HORNET'S NEST, RIGHT?
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE TO DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS, EH?

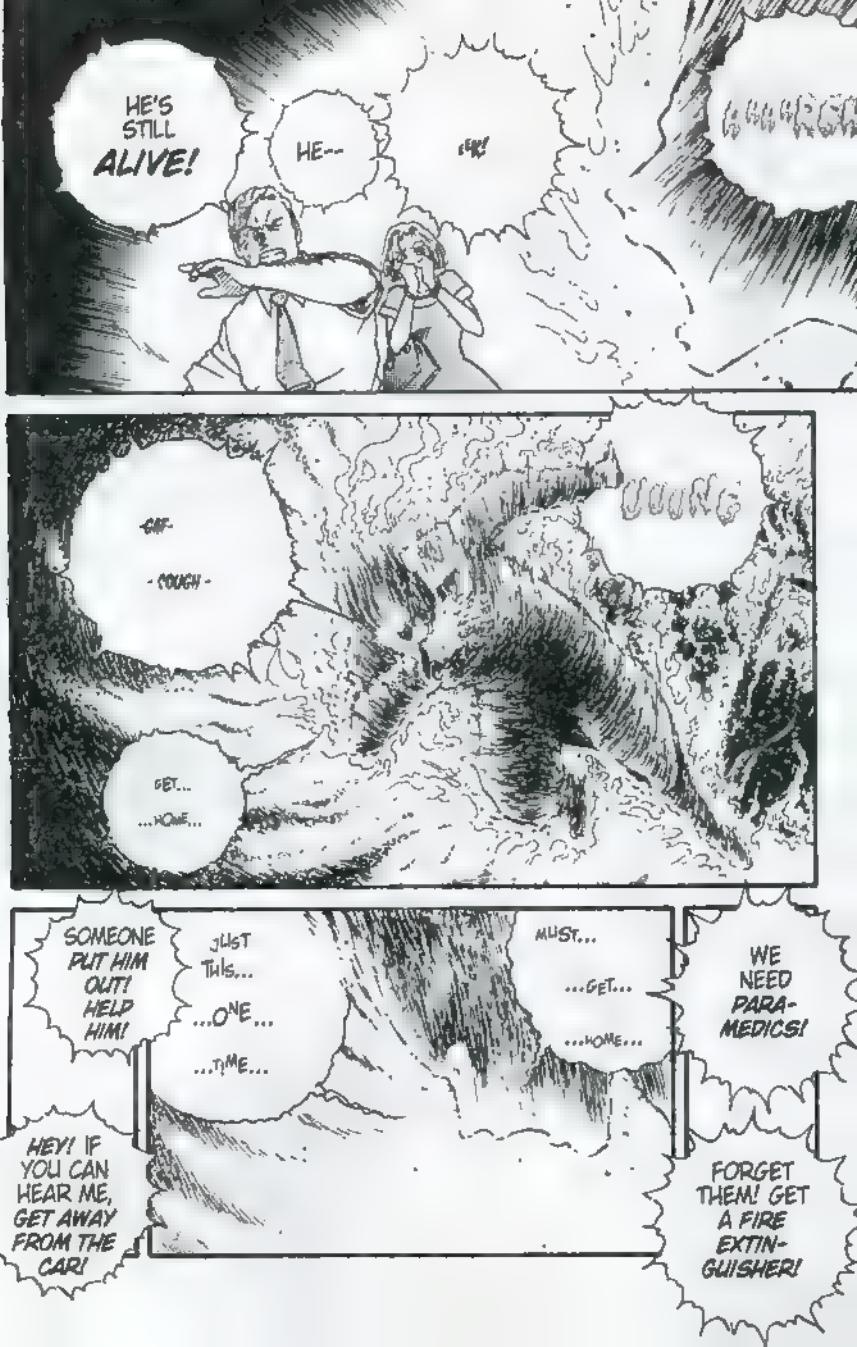
IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER HAD YOU KILLED THEM ALL OFF!
THEN, AT LEAST, THE REST OF THEIR LITTLE PACK WOULD KNOW WHO WAS BOSS...
...THEY'D "BEHAVE"!
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS!
THEY TOOK THE FIRST SHOT. JUST BE GLAD I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE.


YOU--
WH--
WHY ARE YOU SO SCARED?
OF ME LEAVING?
THAT WOULD MAKE MY LEAVING ALL RIGHT... ...RIGHT?
YOU IDIOT! SO WHAT IF YOU'RE GONE! WE'D JUST BE ONE MAN SHORT. YOU DON'T THINK WE CAN'T HANDLE OURSELVES?
WHAT?
...OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
HOW'D D-BLOCK'S SIMPSON BR-OTHERS PUT IT? SWITCH SIDES AND WE'LL PAY $5000 PER WEEK.
BULLIT, WHAT ABOUT OUR CONTRACT? YOU'RE A HIRED HAND.
TODAY, I'M GOING HOME.
IF YOU HAVE ANY COM-PLAINTS, THAT'S BETWEEN YOU AND THEM. MY CON-TRACT WITH YOU IS DONE.
YOU...
...DIDN'T...
THAT...
...BASTARD...
THAT--
WAIT! DOUBLE-K!

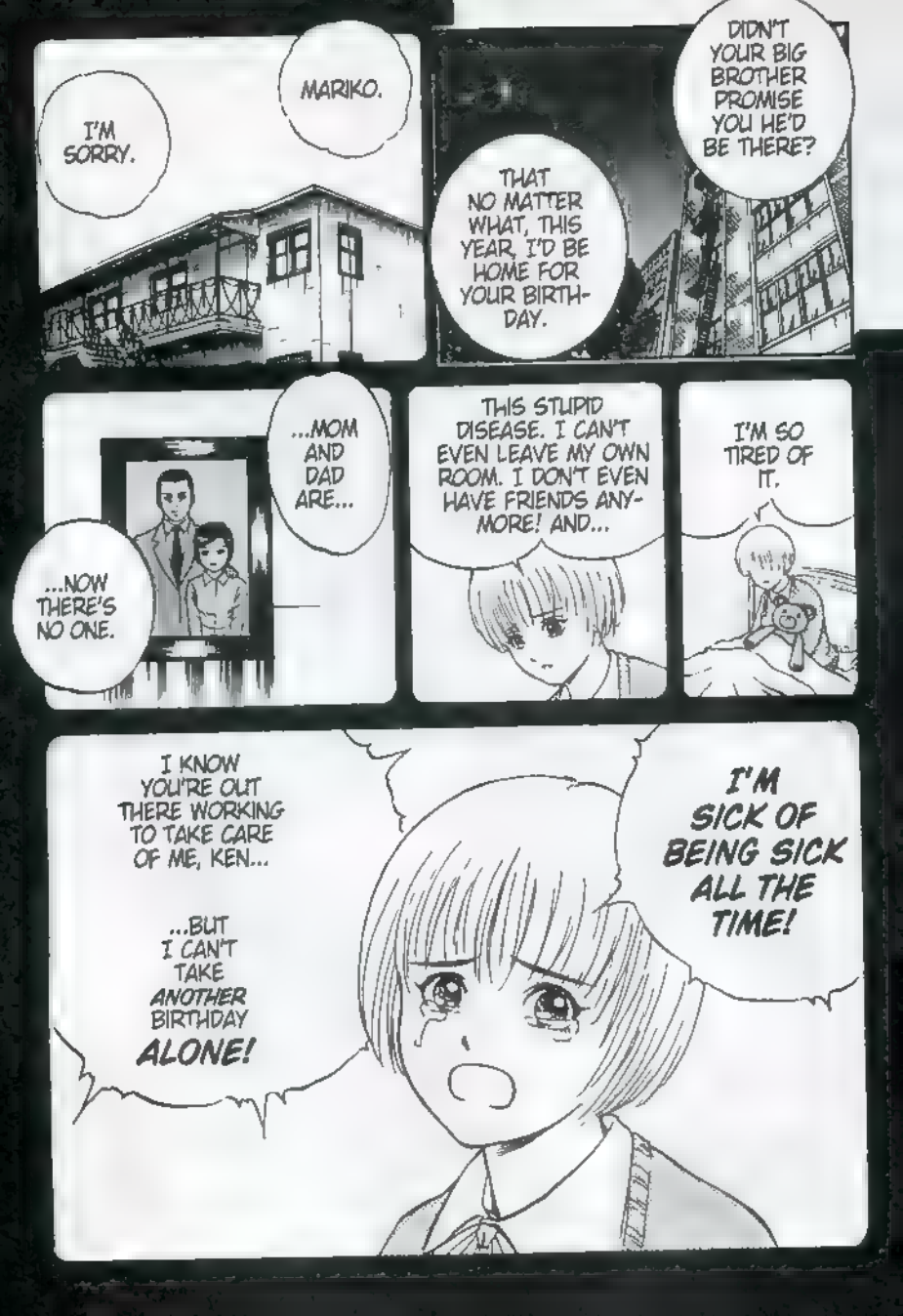

Thank you
whirrr...rrr

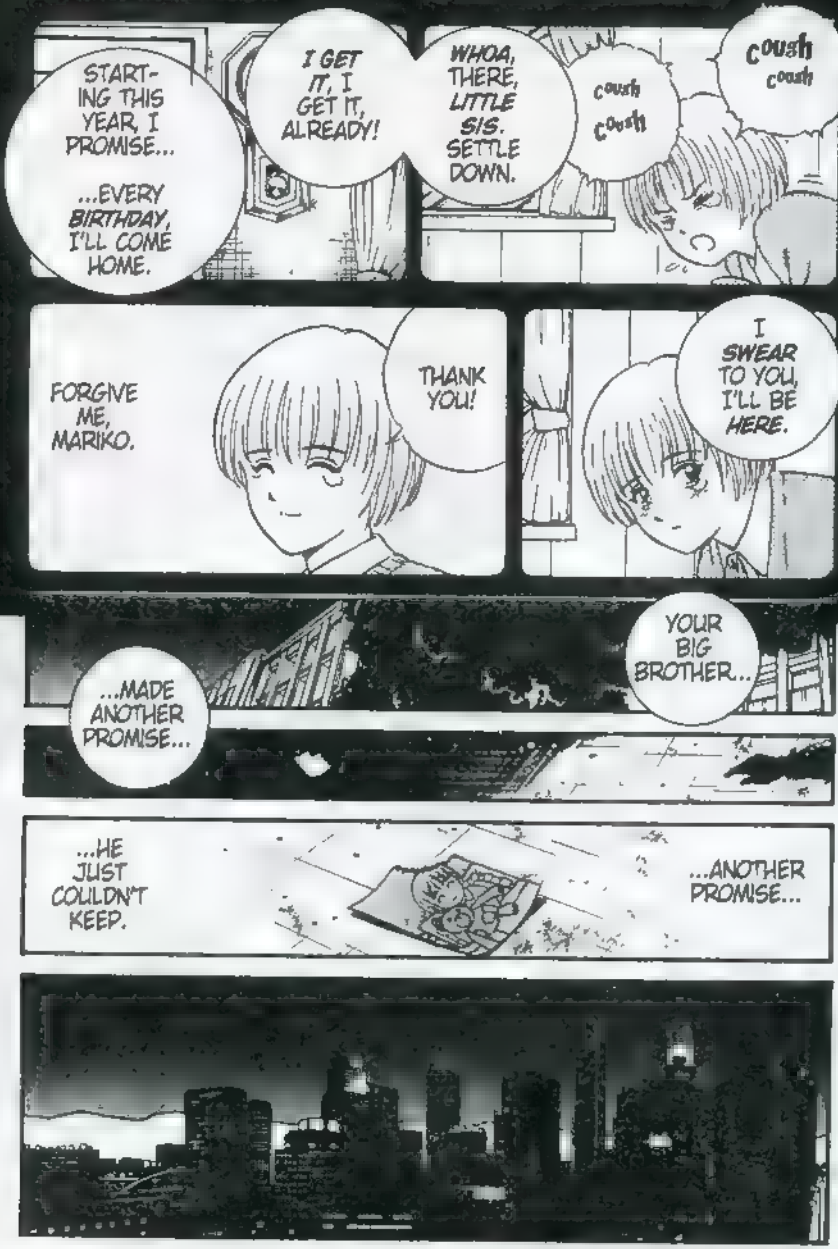

THAT CAR JUST BLEW-UP!
OH, MY GOD! SOME-ONE'S IN THERE!
THAT CAR--
EYAAAAA!!!
WHAT WAS THAT?!

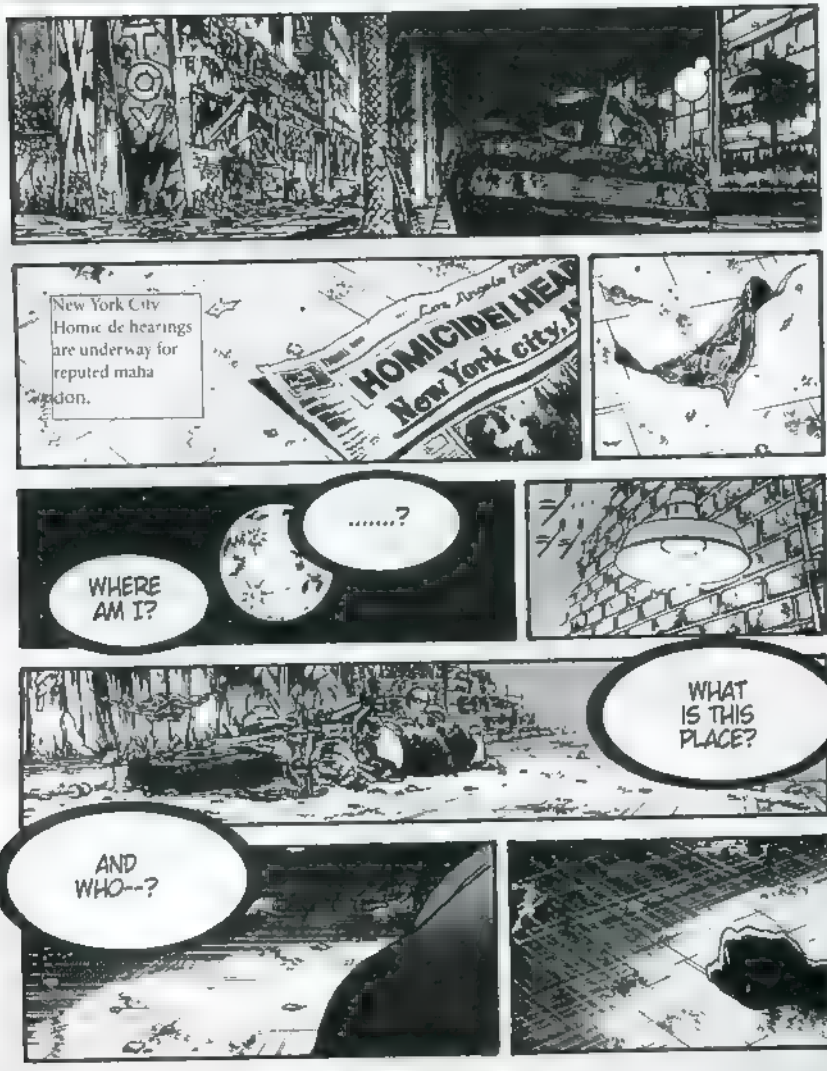

SOME-ONE GET A COP OR SOME-THING!
HURRY!
BEST STAY CLEAR! THE WHOLE THING CAN GO UP ANY SECOND, NOW!
SOME-ONE CALL 9-1-1!


HE'S STILL ALIVE!
HE--
EK!
GHRCH
GIF-
- COUGH -
UUNG
GET...
...HOME...
SOMEONE PUT HIM OUT! HELP HIM!
JUST THIS...
...ONE...
...TIME...
MUST...
...GET...
...HOME...
WE NEED PARA-MEDICS!
HEY! IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, GET AWAY FROM THE CAR!
FORGET THEM! GET A FIRE EXTIN-GUISHER!

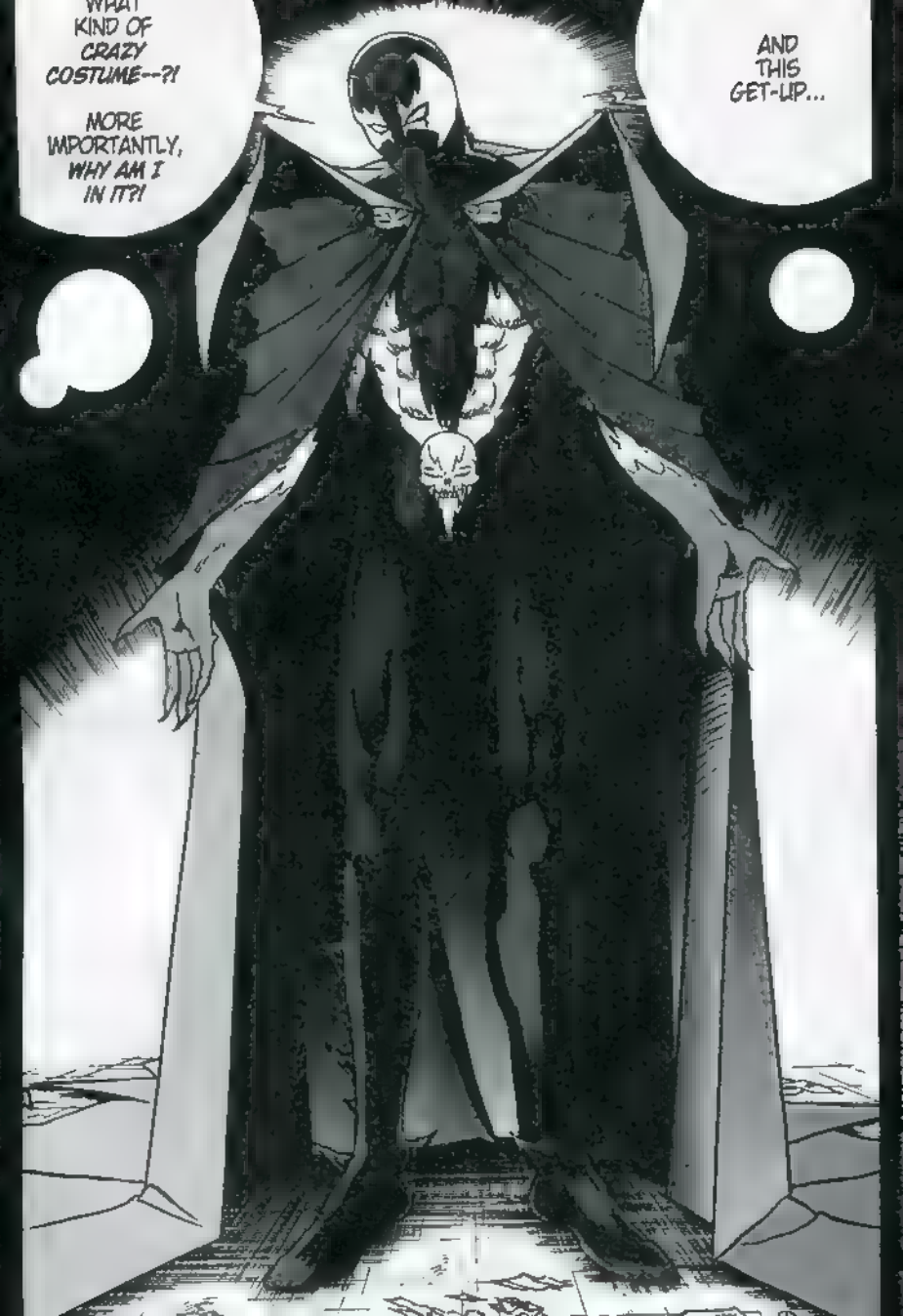
I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE--
MARIKO'S WAITING...
MARIKO...
I CAN'T DIE!
I WILL NOT DIE!
THAT'S A PROMISE!
MARIKO...
.....
.....

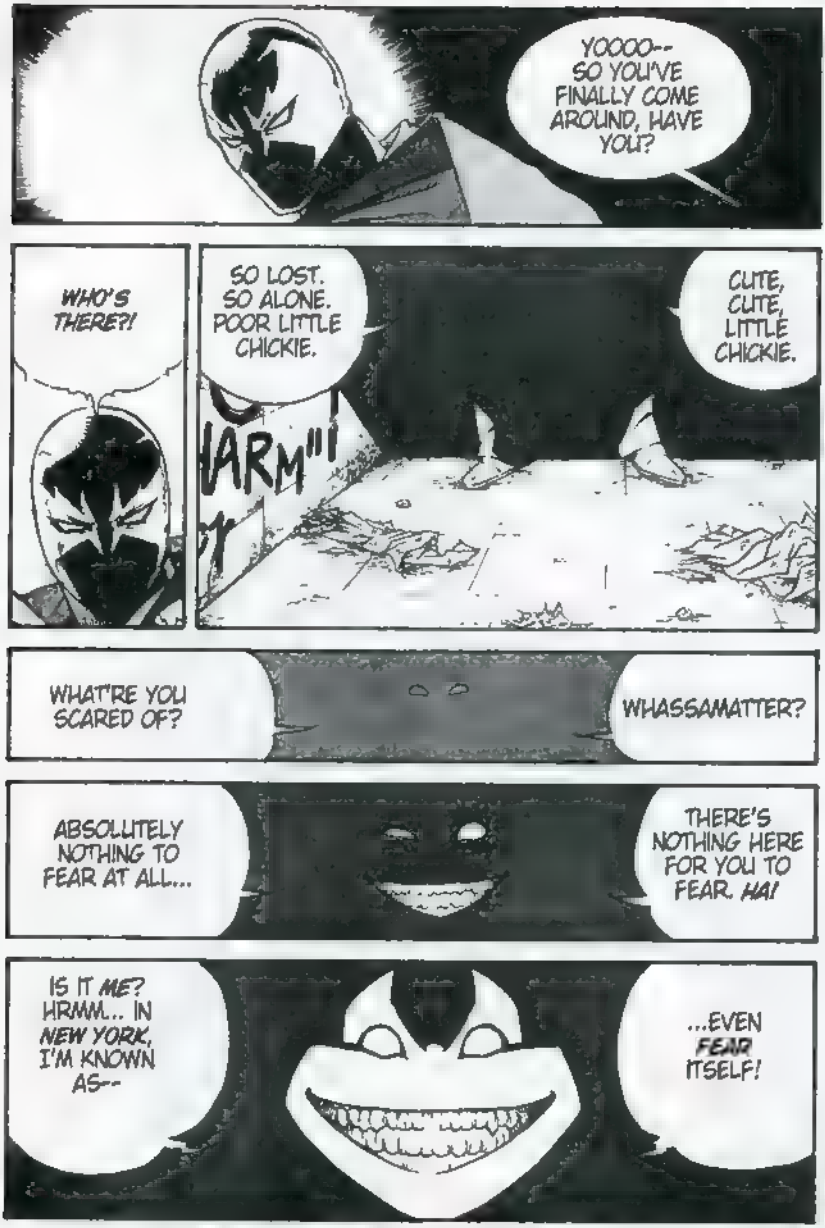

MARIKO.
I'M SORRY.
DIDN'T YOUR BIG BROTHER PROMISE YOU HE'D BE THERE?
THAT NO MATTER WHAT, THIS YEAR, I'D BE HOME FOR YOUR BIRTH-DAY.
...MOM AND DAD ARE...
...NOW THERE'S NO ONE.
THIS STUPID DISEASE. I CAN'T EVEN LEAVE MY OWN ROOM. I DON'T EVEN HAVE FRIENDS ANY-MORE! AND...
I'M SO TIRED OF IT.
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE WORKING TO TAKE CARE OF ME, KEN...
...BUT I CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER BIRTHDAY ALONE!
I'M SICK OF BEING SICK ALL THE TIME!


START-
ING THIS
YEAR, I
PROMISE...
...EVERY
BIRTHDAY,
I'LL COME
HOME.
I GET
IT, I
GET IT,
ALREADY!
WHOA,
THERE,
LITTLE
SIS.
SETTLE
DOWN.
cough
cough
cough
cough
FORGIVE
ME,
MARIKO.
THANK
YOU!
I
SWEAR
TO YOU,
I'LL BE
HERE.
...MADE
ANOTHER
PROMISE...
YOUR
BIG
BROTHER...
...HE
JUST
COULDN'T
KEEP.
...ANOTHER
PROMISE...


New York City Homic de hearings are underway for reputed maha gedon.
HOMICIDE! HEAD
New York city,
.....?
WHERE AM I?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
AND WHO--?

WHO AM I?!
WHO...
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF MASK IS THIS?
!?


WHAT KIND OF CRAZY COSTUME--?!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY AM I IN IT?!
AND THIS GET-UP...


YOOOO-- SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME AROUND, HAVE YOU?
WHO'S THERE?!
SO LOST. SO ALONE. POOR LITTLE CHICKIE.
CUTE, CUTE, LITTLE CHICKIE.
HARM"!
WHAT'RE YOU SCARED OF?
WHASSAMATTER?
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO FEAR AT ALL...
THERE'S NOTHING HERE FOR YOU TO FEAR. HA!
IS IT ME? HRMM... IN NEW YORK, I'M KNOWN AS--
...EVEN FEAR ITSELF!

I'M YOUR KIND AND GENTLE MENTOR...
...THE KIND OF NICE GUY WHO'S LITERALLY *GIVEN HIS HEAD* TO YOUR CAUSE.
THE CLOWN!
YEP. THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME HEREABOUTS.
DON'T WORRY, BOYO. YOUR MEMORY WILL RETURN IN TIME. FOR NOW, THERE'S JUST *ONE* THING YOU NEED TO REMEMBER
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?
NO TIME TO WASTE BEING INDEBTED TO YA, BIG GUY.
TALK ABOUT OVERWORKED! NOW ***AL SIMMONS***... THAT THERE'S A TRIPLE-A CHAMP OF CHAMPS
ALWAYS SO DAMN BUSY IN THIS TOWN.

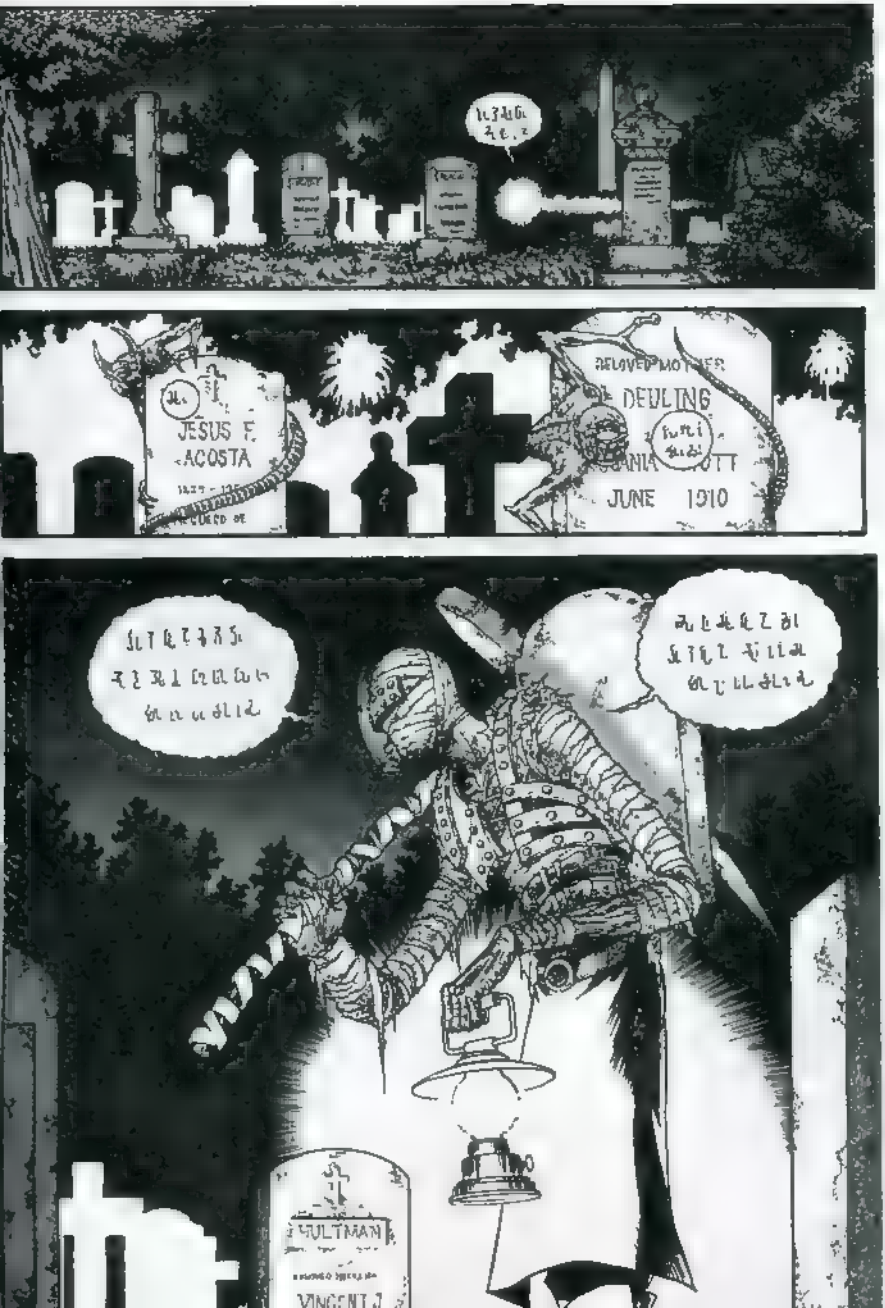
ACTUALLY, NOT ONE *THING* SO MUCH AS IT'S ABOUT ONE *PERSON*.
JUST ONE TEENSY-TINY LITTLE IOTA OF BUSINESS YOU DIDN'T QUITE FULFILL.
ONE LITTLE THING.
THERE WAS...
...A...
...PROMISE.
THAT'S RIGHT!
PERSON?
?!
HNH!
AND THAT'S WHY...
I COULDN'T LET MYSELF DIE.
!!

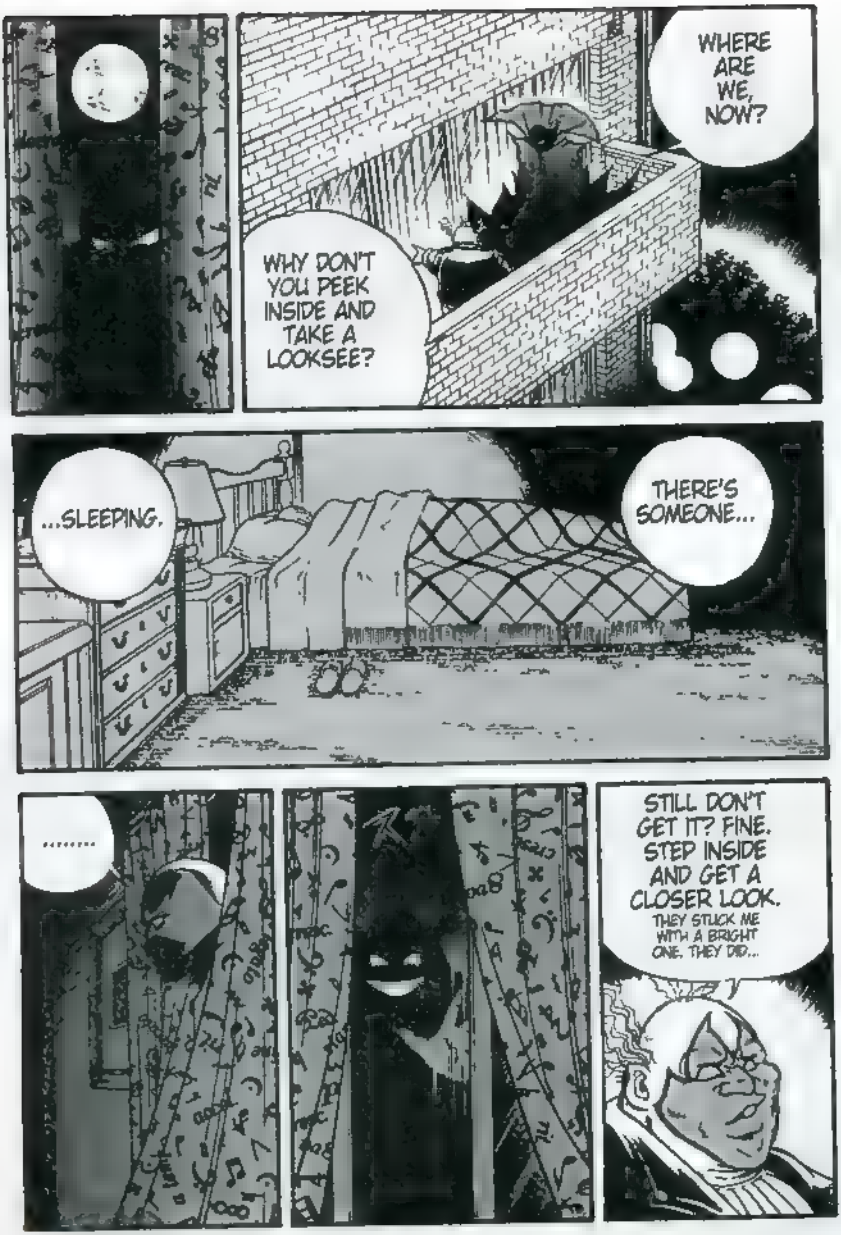
BUT YOU CAME BACK--
BLOODIED ROADKILL ON THE FREEWAY OF LIFE, BOYO.
WAIT A MIN-LITE...
...YOU SAYIN--
DIE?
EH, HEH. AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT WE CALL YOU RUGRATS TO YOUR FACES, ANYWAY.
PU
AS A HELLSPAWN!
!?
HEY, YOU LAZY ASS-WIPES! OPEN YOUR DAMN EYES ALREADY!
CALM DOWN, CHICKIE-BOY. I'M HERE TO FILL THAT EMPTY LITTLE NOGGIN' OF YOURS WITH ALL YOU'LL NEED TO KNOW!
H-- HELL-- DID I-- I MEAN, AM I--

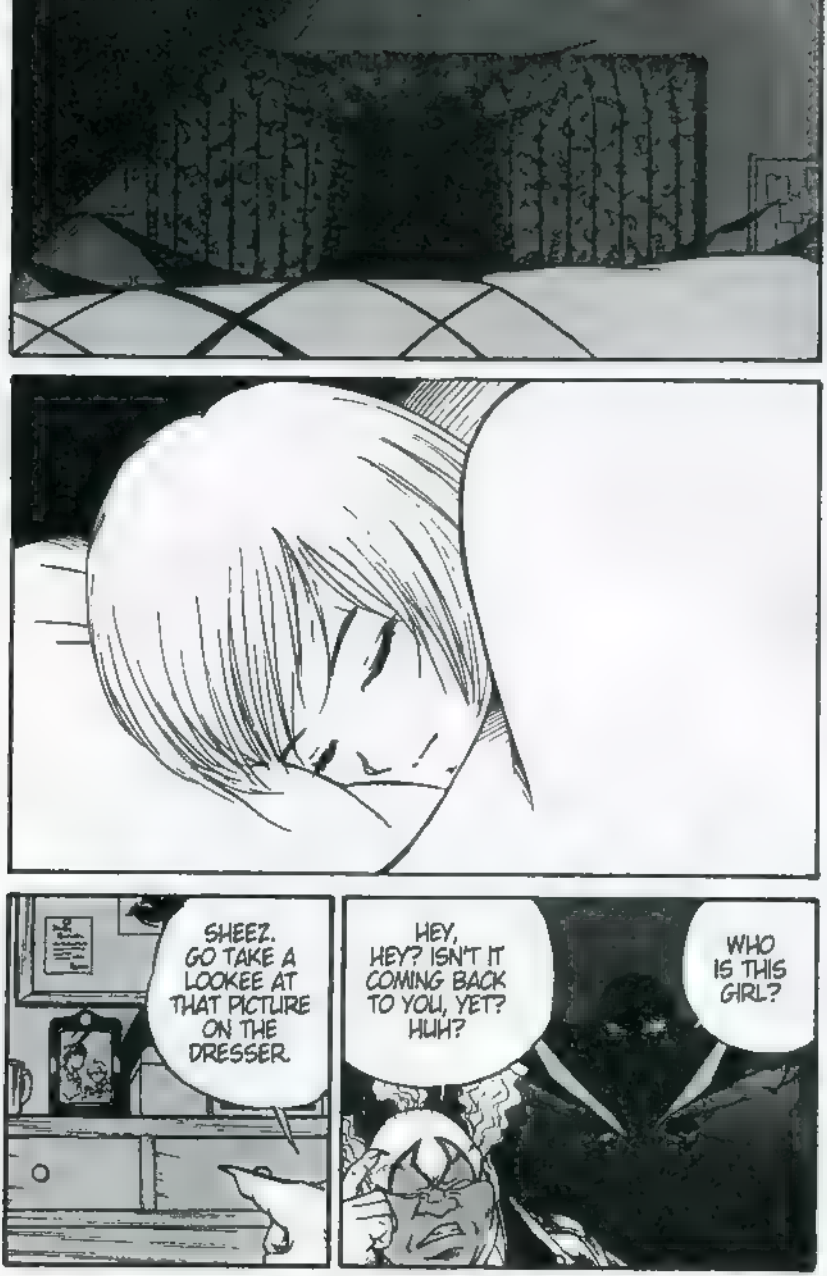
CLICK CLACK
CLICK
IT'S ACTUALLY A BIT OF A PARASITE...
...THOUGH YOU ARE ITS MASTER.
LIKE ME, THAT SUIT LIVES TO PROTECT YOU.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE THINGS?!
CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK
HURRY? MEANING?
IF WE DON'T HURRY, YOUR REASON FOR RETURNING WILL HAVE LOST ITS MEANING.
NO TIME FOR ALL THESE KIDDIE QUESTIONS.
IN WHAT WAY?
PARA-SITE?
HERE WE GO!
OOOOKAY--

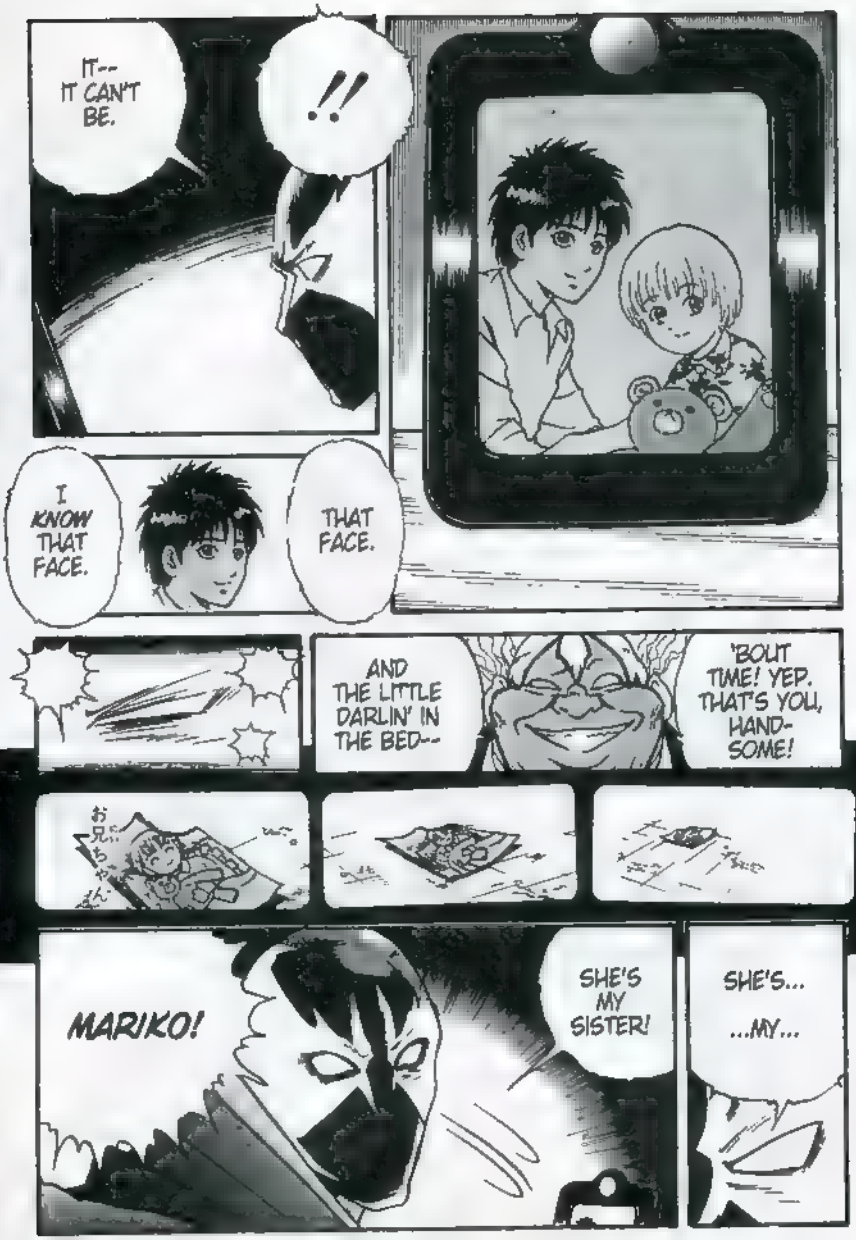
HEY!
HOLLYWOOD, HERE WE COME!

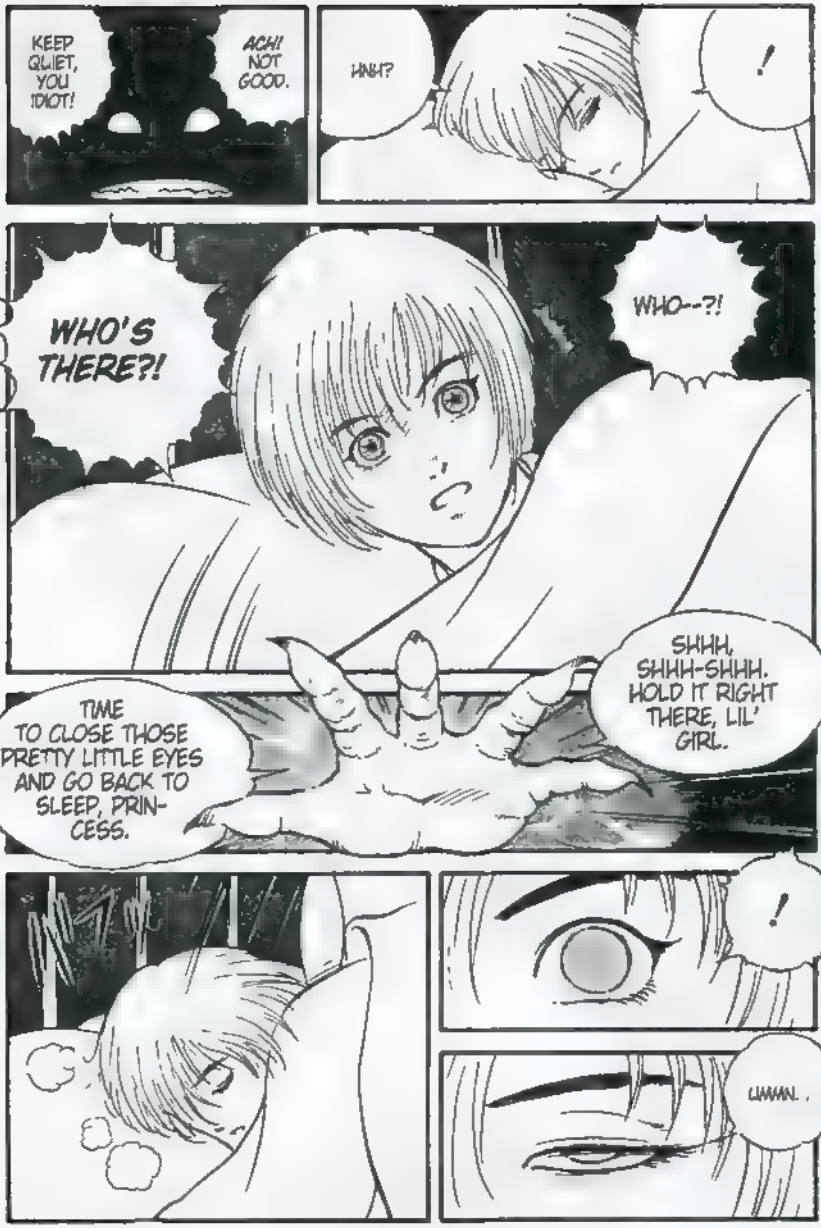
BUT A CHICKIE IN THAT SUIT CAN!
RIGHT ABOUT THE TIME YOU WERE ALIVE, A MEETING OF THE POWERS BEGAN A WHOLE NEW ERA.
WE'RE FLYING!
WH- WH- WHAT GIVES?!
WH- WH- WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE, CHICKIE-BOY? GRANTED, CHICKENS DON'T FLY--
WE'RE OFF TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THIS NEW REALITY.
THE NEW ORDER THAT IS THE WORLD WE NOW "LIVE" IN...
YOU CAN STOP FLAP-PING YOUR ARMS, NOW.


JESUS F.
ACOSTA
DEULING
JUNE 1910
GULTMAN
VINCENT J

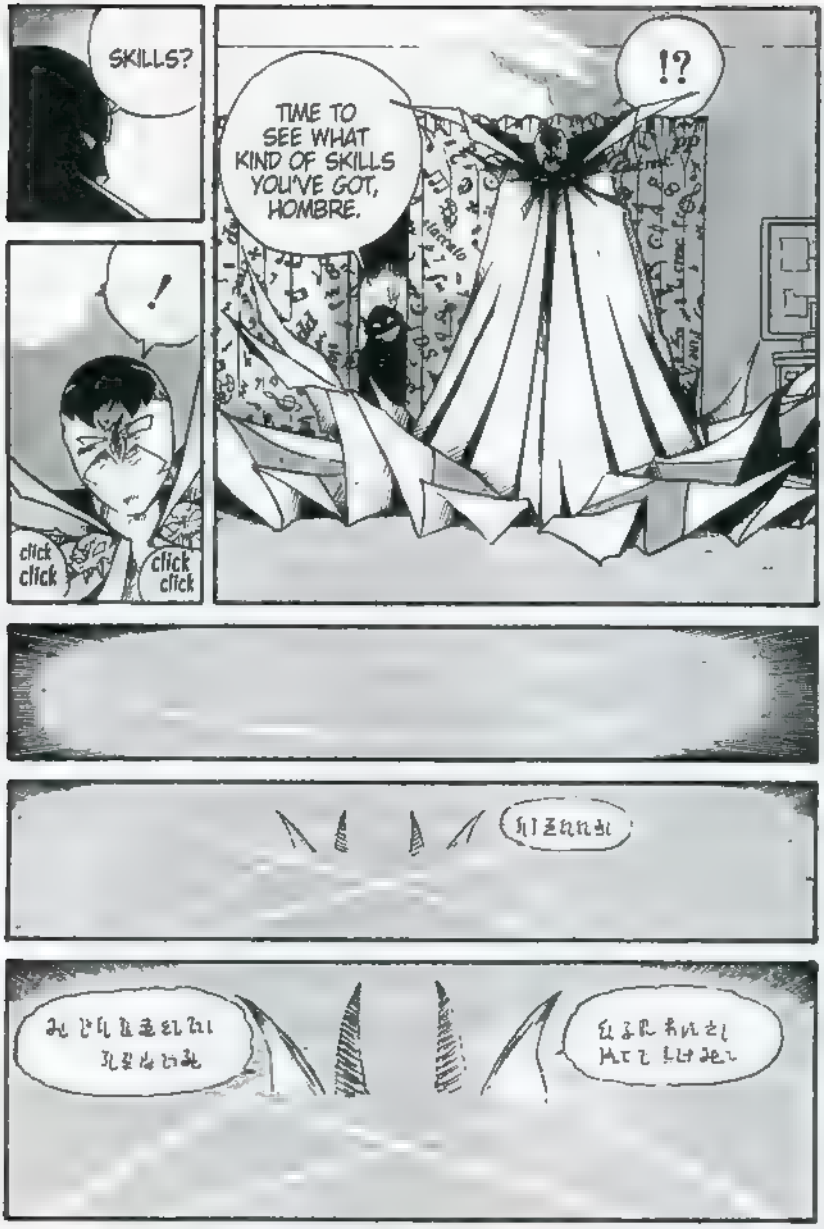

WHERE ARE WE, NOW?
WHY DON'T YOU PEEK INSIDE AND TAKE A LOOKSEE?
...SLEEPING.
THERE'S SOMEONE...
.....
STILL DON'T GET IT? FINE. STEP INSIDE AND GET A CLOSER LOOK.
THEY STUCK ME WITH A BRIGHT ONE. THEY DID...


SHEEZ. GO TAKE A LOOKEE AT THAT PICTURE ON THE DRESSER.
HEY, HEY? ISN'T IT COMING BACK TO YOU, YET? HUH?
WHO IS THIS GIRL?


IT--
IT CAN'T BE.
!!
I KNOW THAT FACE.
THAT FACE.
AND THE LITTLE DARLIN' IN THE BED--
'BOUT TIME! YEP. THAT'S YOU, HAND-SOME!
お兄ちゃん
MARIKO!
SHE'S MY SISTER!
SHE'S...
...MY...


KEEP QUIET, YOU IDIOT!
ACH! NOT GOOD.
HNH?
!
WHO'S THERE?!
WHO--?!
SHHH, SHHH-SHHH. HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, LIL' GIRL.
TIME TO CLOSE THOSE PRETTY LITTLE EYES AND GO BACK TO SLEEP, PRINCESS.
!
UHHH. .

HOW WOULD THAT HAVE GONE?
OR DID YOU PLAN TO EXPLAIN YOUR RETURN FROM THE DEAD?
HOLD YOUR HORSES, COWBOY. I JUST PUT HER BACK TO LA-LA LAND.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?!
HNN.
WE'RE NOT GONNA GET FAR IF I HAVE TO EXPLAIN EVERY LITTLE DETAIL.
MUST I EXPLAIN EVERYTHING?
THIS GIRL IS A TEENAGER.
WAIT A SECOND. MARIKO WAS NINE WHEN I... DIED.
GIVE IT YOUR ALL IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE SISTER.
APPEARANCE?
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR "HIS" APPEARANCE.
NO TIME TO TELL YOU THE MINUTIAE OF DULL MATTERS.
TOO LATE, BOYO.


SKILLS?
TIME TO SEE WHAT KIND OF SKILLS YOU'VE GOT, HOMBRE.
!?
!
click click
click click

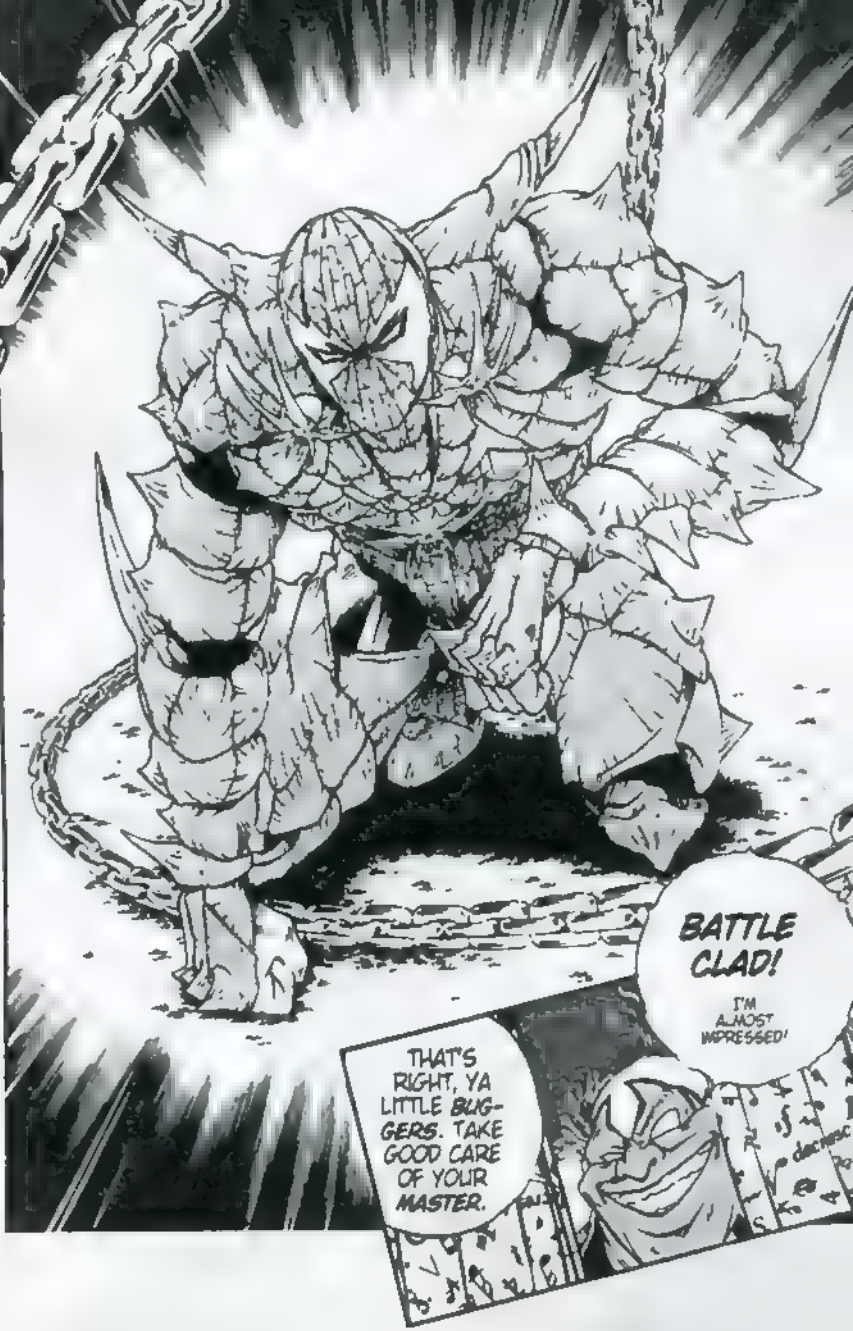
...DEMON!
WH--
WHAT THE
HELL IS
THAT...
YOU.
WHO
ARE
YOU?
HMM?
WHO'S
THERE?
...HELL
SPAWN?!
WHY
ARE YOU IN
THE SAME
ROOM AS MY
BRIDE...

SHE IS ALREADY MINE.
THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE FULFILLED MY END OF THE BARGAIN. NOW I AM GRANTED MY FREEDOM...
...AND THE GIRL.
BRIDE?
!?
STAY OUT OF AFFAIRS THAT DON'T CONCERN YOU--
WHAT KIND OF CRAP IS THAT?
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST CLAIM HER, HEH?
AND
DIE!

I'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS!

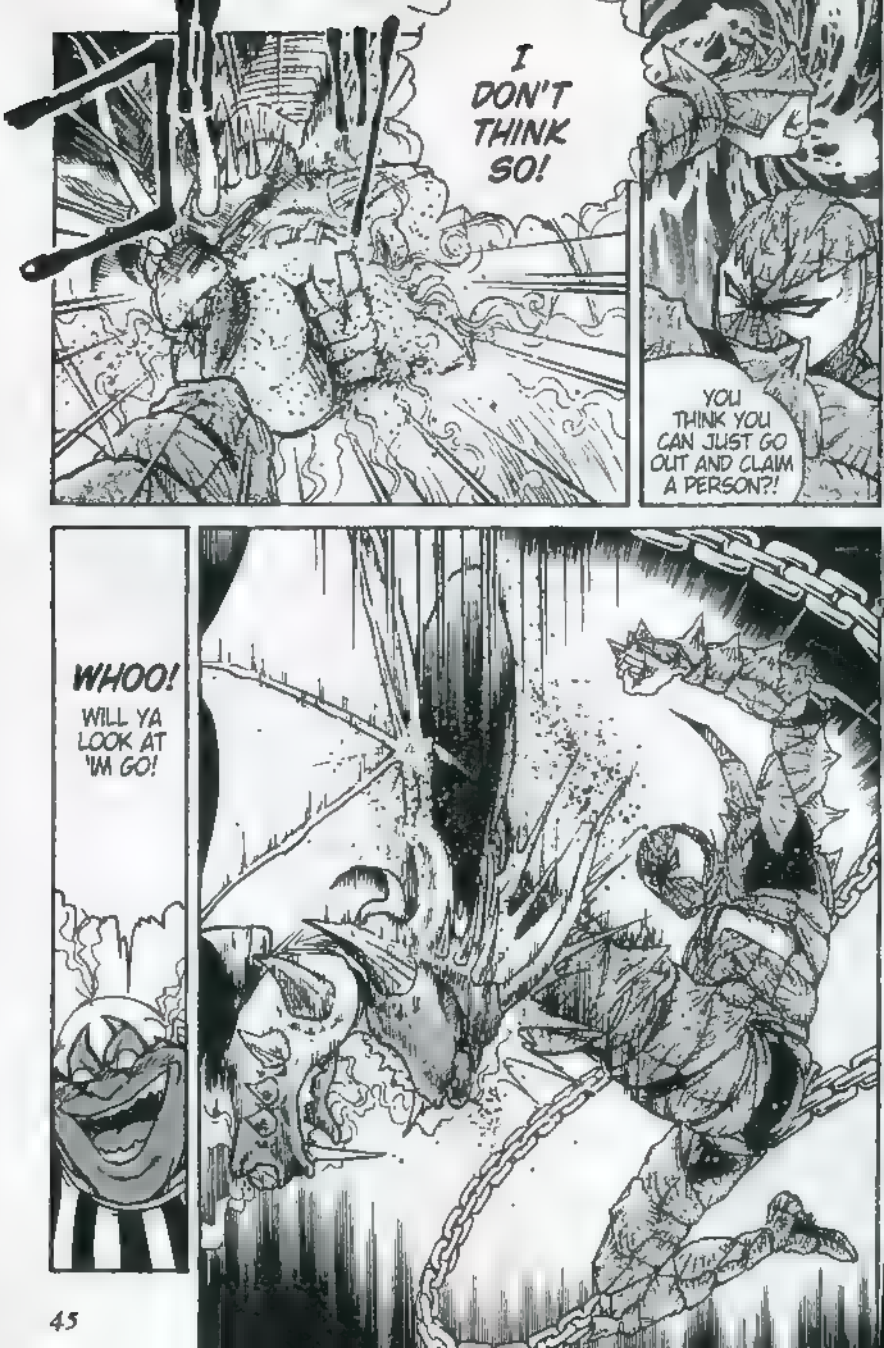
WHAT KIND OF A RUBE ARE YOU? FIGHT!
...WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT...
GRNF!

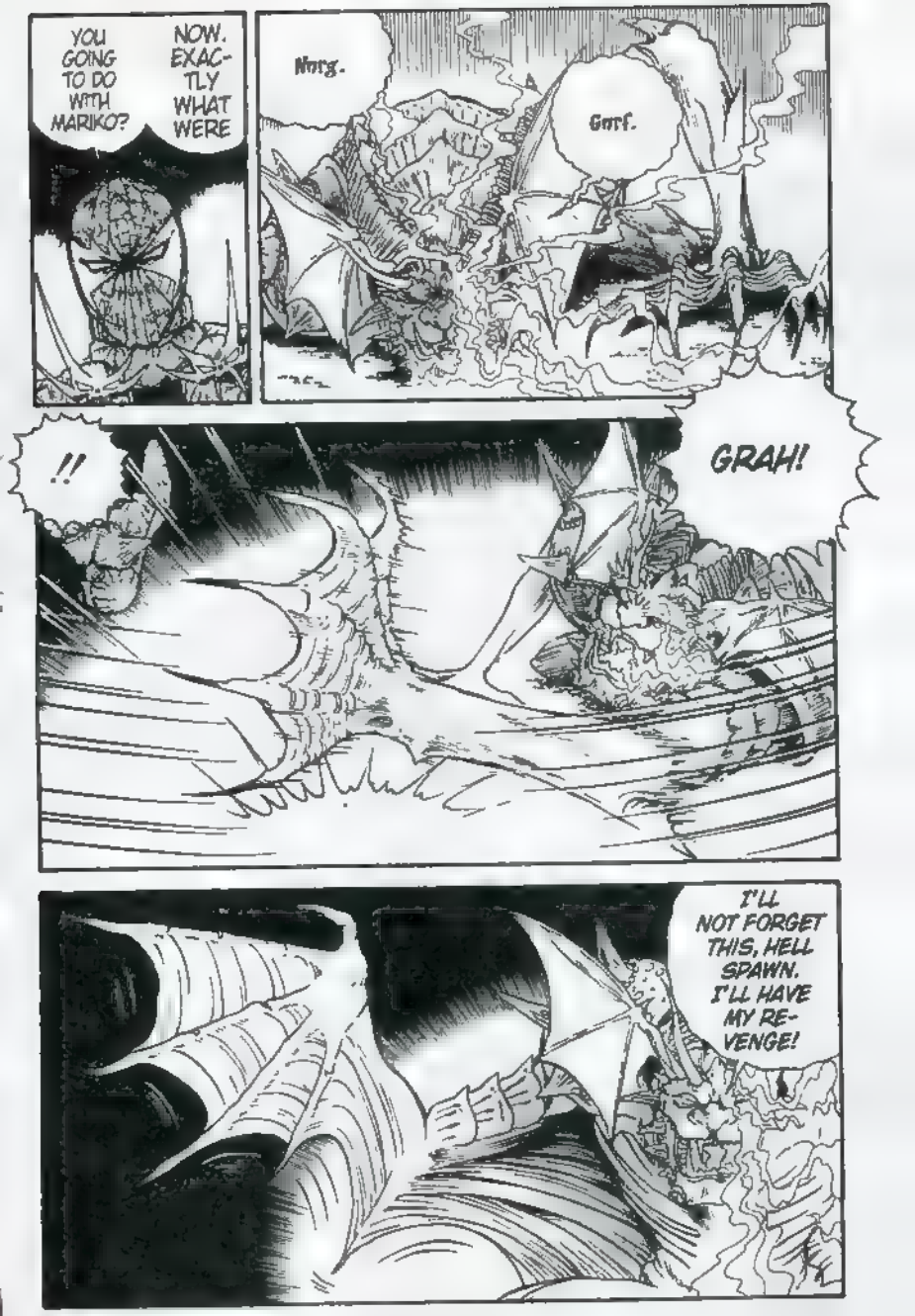
click click
click click
click clack
!?
kchak!
kchak!
kchak!
kchak!
click
click
click


BATTLE CLAD!
I'M ALMOST IMPRESSED!
THAT'S RIGHT, YA LITTLE BUG-GERS. TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MASTER.

YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME WITH A CHANGE OF CLOTHES?!
TO HANDLE, A SELF-ABSORBED DEVIL-BEAST, I'D SAY, YEAH.

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT JUST THE RIGHT ASS-KICKIN' BOOTS!
WHOA!
HNGYAAA!


I DON'T THINK SO!
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST GO OUT AND CLAIM A PERSON?!
WHOO!
WILL YA LOOK AT 'IM GO!


YOU GOING TO DO WITH MARIKO?
NOW. EXACTLY WHAT WERE
Nnrg.
Gurf.
!!
GRAH!
I'LL NOT FORGET THIS, HELL SPAWN. I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!

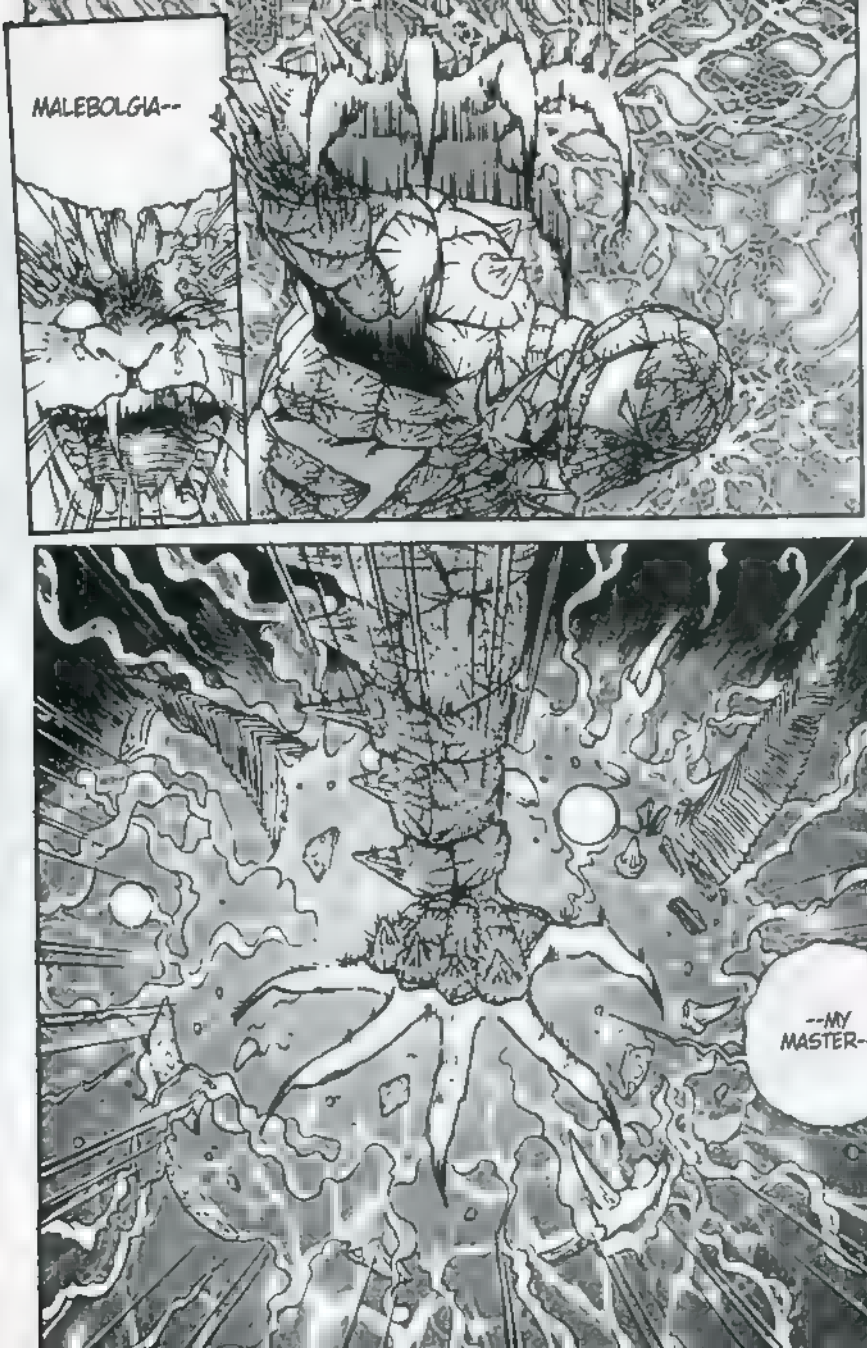
YOU WILL SEE--
THIS IS NOT THE END, I PROMISE YOU!
VIOLATOR!
YOU--
HEY-HEY-HEY! DON'T LET IT GET AWAY OR YOUR BABY SIS IS GONNA HAVE A *LIFETIME STALKER* ON HER HANDS!

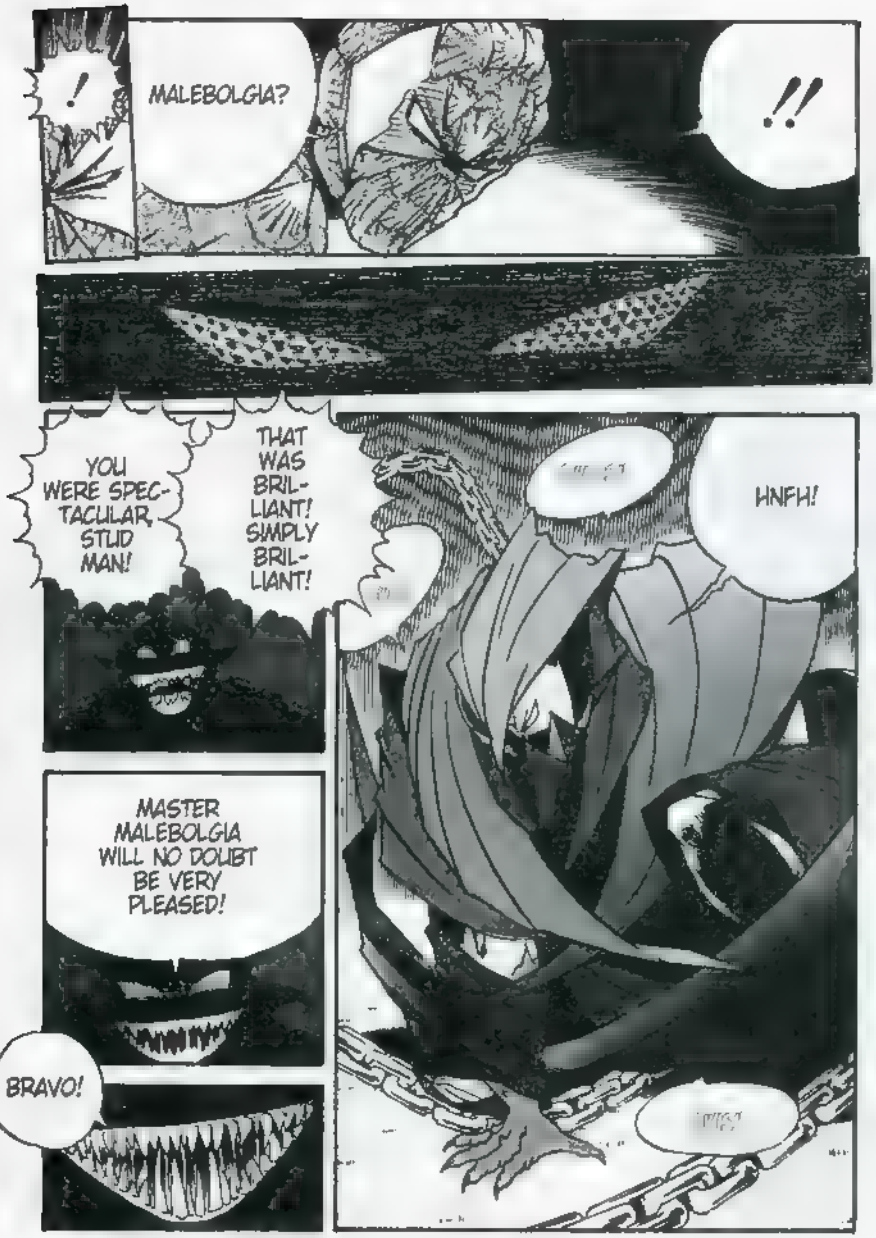
CHAINS THAT RE-ACT TO A MERE THOUGHT.
THESE ARE GOING TO COME IN HANDY.
!!
YOU WILL NOT...

..LAY A FIN-GER..
RIP THOSE NASTY LITTLE BAT WINGS RIGHT OUT OF HIM!
THAT'S RIGHT! TAKE AWAY HIS RIDE!
...ON MY SISTER!
!!

THAT'S IT! NOW FILET HIS CARCASS! TEAR HIM A NEW ONE!
GRAAAH!
TEAR IT OFF!!!
TAKE THE NECK!

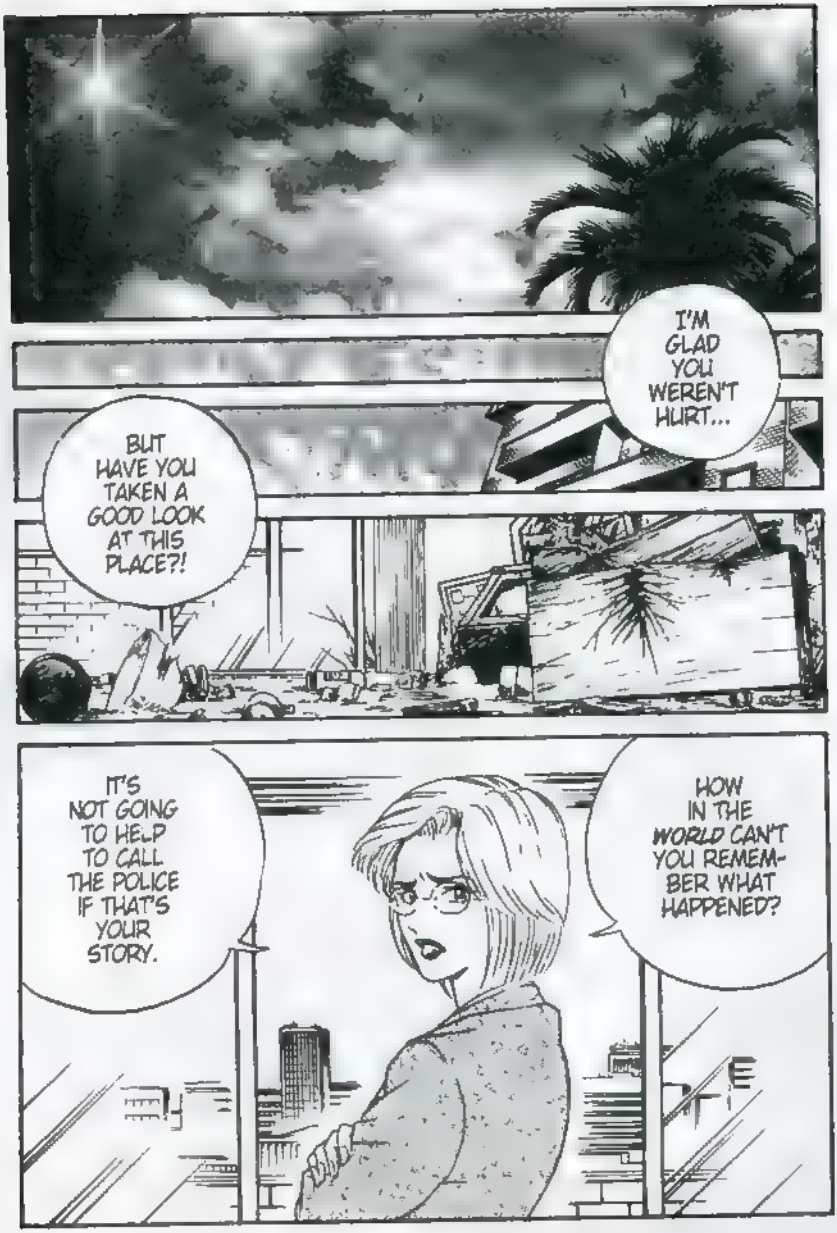
...VIOLATOR...?
WH-WHY...?
SMASH THE HEAD AND END IT!
HE'S FINISHED!
...UNLESS... MAL... MALEBOL--

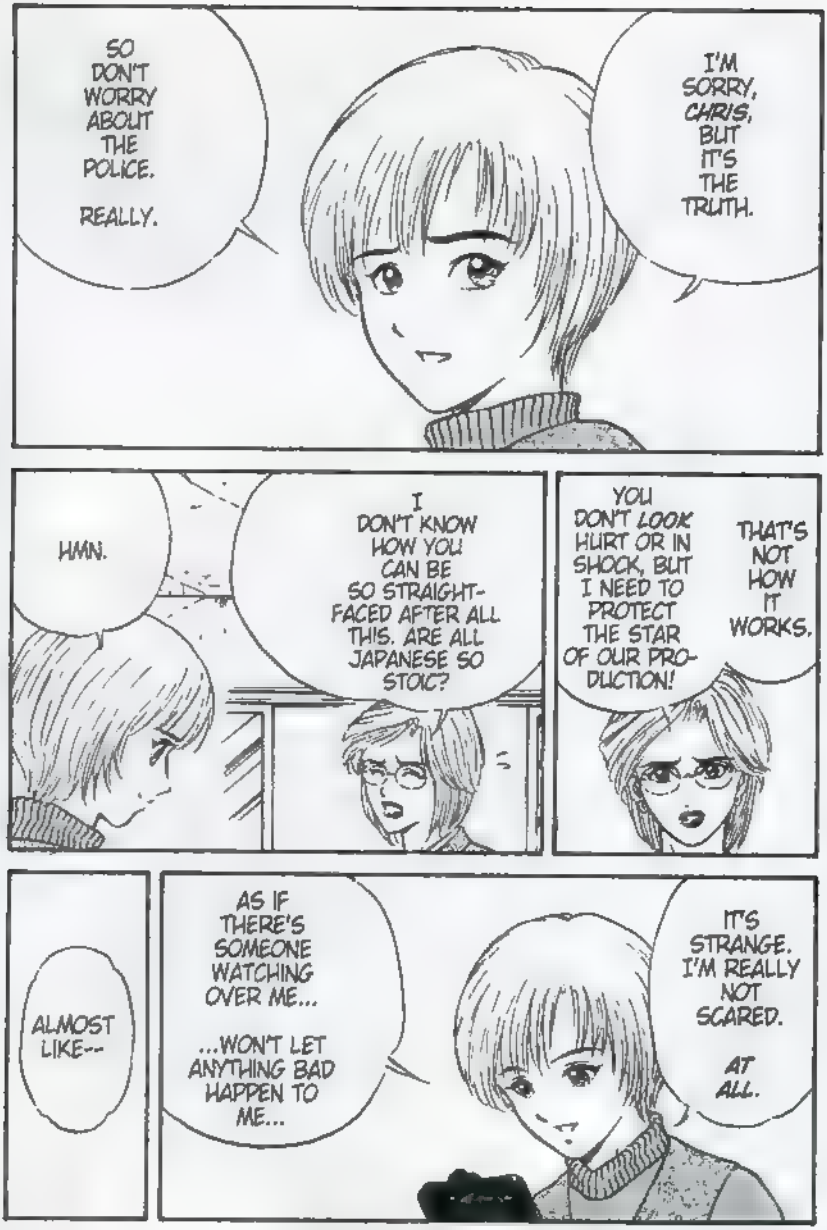

MALEBOLGIA--
--MY MASTER--

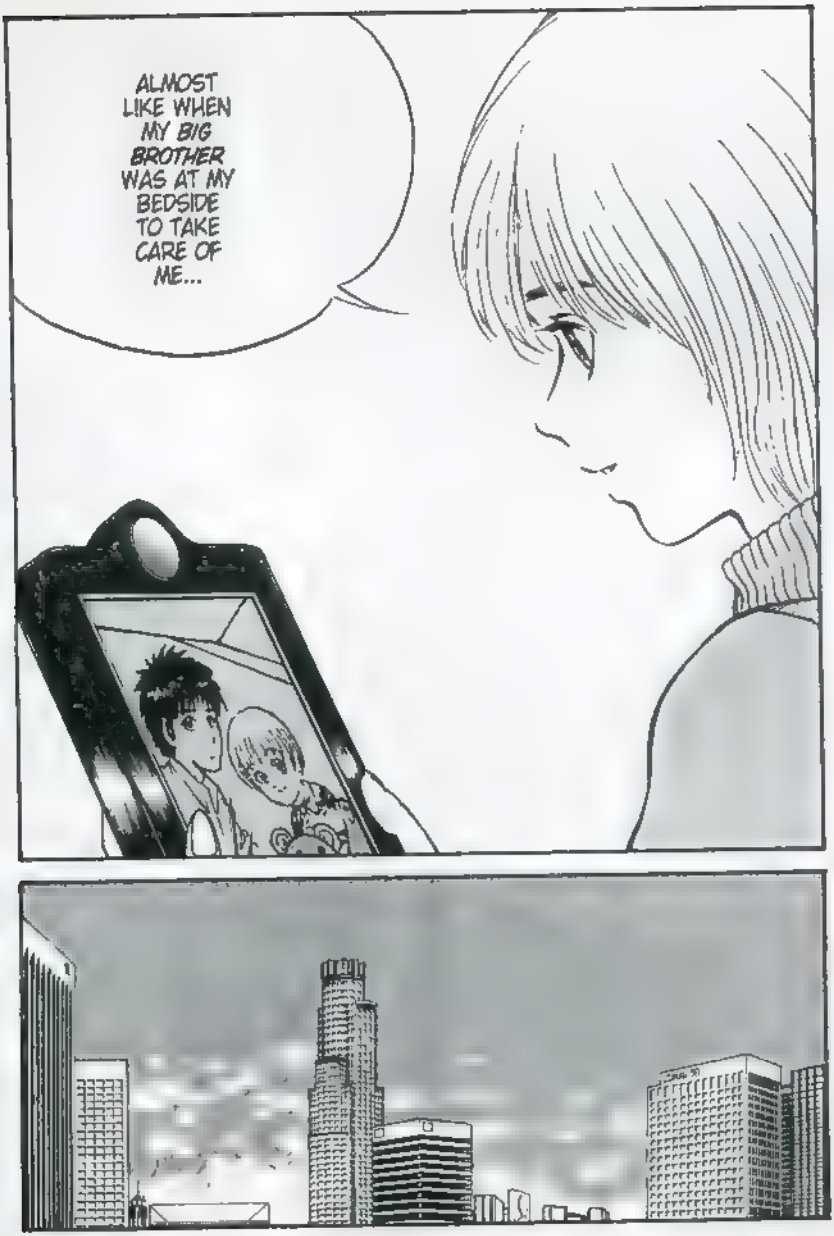

!
MALEBOLGIA?
!!
YOU WERE SPEC-TACULAR, STUD MAN!
THAT WAS BRIL-LIANT! SIMPLY BRIL-LIANT!
HNFH!
MASTER MALEBOLGIA WILL NO DOUBT BE VERY PLEASED!
BRAVO!

MALEBOLGIA. THAT...THING SAID IT JUST BEFORE I KILLED IT.
WHAS-SAMATTER, NEWBIE?
IT'D BE BAD FORM TO FORGET IT...
OF COURSE YOU HAVE!
I KNOW I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BE-FORE.
...MALEBOLGIA.
..TO FORGET THE NAME OF...

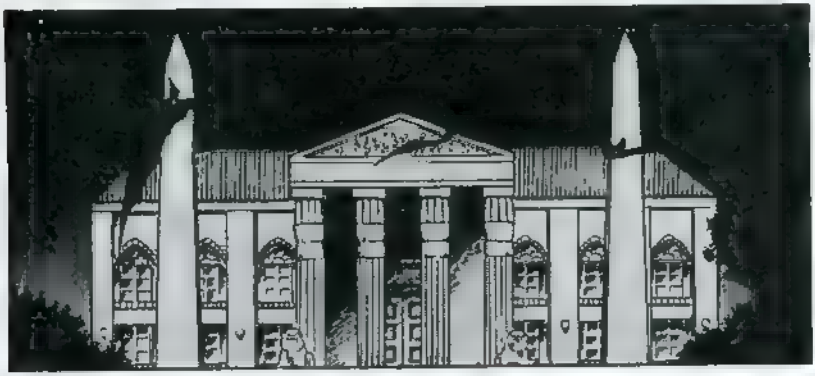
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT.
IT'S POINTLESS TO DWELL ON SUCH A LONG TALE, NOW.
MALEBOLGIA?
BEFORE WE RETURN TO NEW YORK TOMORROW, THERE'S ONE LAST THING I NEED TO SHOW YOU. SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

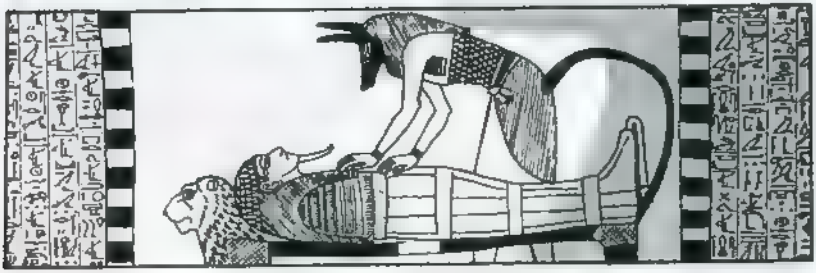

I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T HURT...
BUT HAVE YOU TAKEN A GOOD LOOK AT THIS PLACE?!
IT'S NOT GOING TO HELP TO CALL THE POLICE IF THAT'S YOUR STORY.
HOW IN THE *WORLD* CAN'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?


SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE POLICE. REALLY.
I'M SORRY, CHRIS, BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.
HMN.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN BE SO STRAIGHT-FACED AFTER ALL THIS. ARE ALL JAPANESE SO STOIC?
YOU DON'T LOOK HURT OR IN SHOCK, BUT I NEED TO PROTECT THE STAR OF OUR PRODUCTION!
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.
ALMOST LIKE--
AS IF THERE'S SOMEONE WATCHING OVER ME... ...WON'T LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO ME...
IT'S STRANGE. I'M REALLY NOT SCARED. AT ALL.


ALMOST LIKE WHEN MY BIG BROTHER WAS AT MY BEDSIDE TO TAKE CARE OF ME...

EPISODE.2 THE INTRIGUE —陰謀—

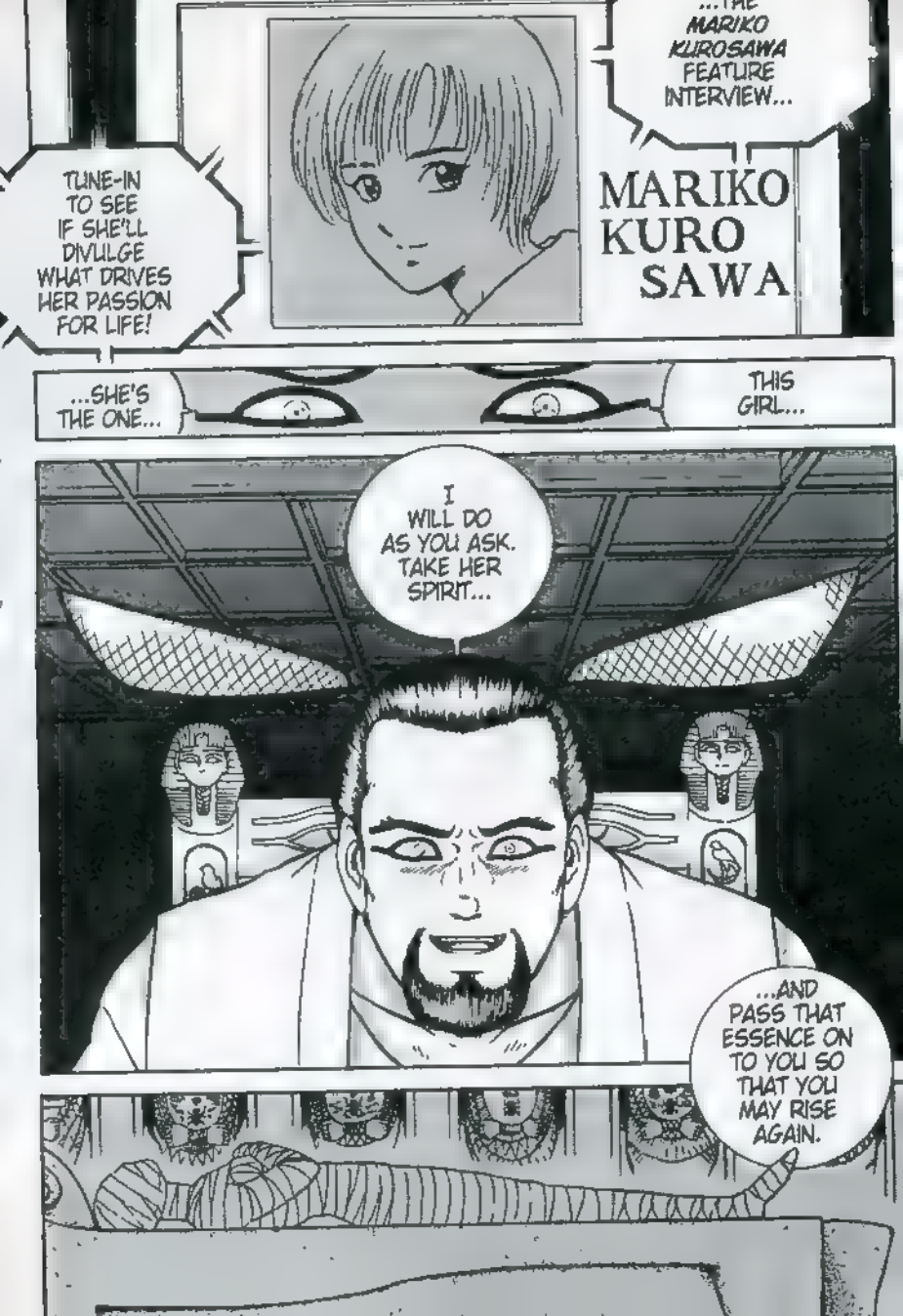




A GIFT TO THE GODS... ...FOR EVER-LASTING LIFE.
ISIS AND OSIRIS THEMSELVES HAVE PICKED THIS OF-FERING.
YOU'V BEE CHOS

THE TIME HAS COME TO FREE THE SPIRIT FROM CORPOREAL FORM--
IN THE NAME OF ANUBIS, I CLAIM THEE!

...I...
. HAVE SEARCHED.
I HAVE DONE AS YOU ASKED.
hisss
LOS ANGELES- POLICE ARE BAFFLED BY THE STRING OF KIDNAPPINGS OF ONE FEMALE AND ONE MALE EACH MONTH FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS.
. YOU MUST SEEK...
-- GONNA BE A BIG STUNT!
. FOUND THE ONE...
-- NEXT GENERATION EYE CANDY!
-- NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE HER--
CRAZY! MAD! COOL! BOSS!
-- WHOA! HO-HO! WE'RE SEEING HISTORY--
...UNDERSTAND AND OBEY.
-- NO. MAKE THAT FEMALE ACTION STAR--
I...
-- THE NEWEST ACTION STAR--


...THE MARIKO KUROSAWA FEATURE INTERVIEW...
MARIKO KURO SAWA
TUNE-IN TO SEE IF SHE'LL DIVULGE WHAT DRIVES HER PASSION FOR LIFE!
...SHE'S THE ONE...
THIS GIRL...
I WILL DO AS YOU ASK. TAKE HER SPIRIT...
...AND PASS THAT ESSENCE ON TO YOU SO THAT YOU MAY RISE AGAIN.

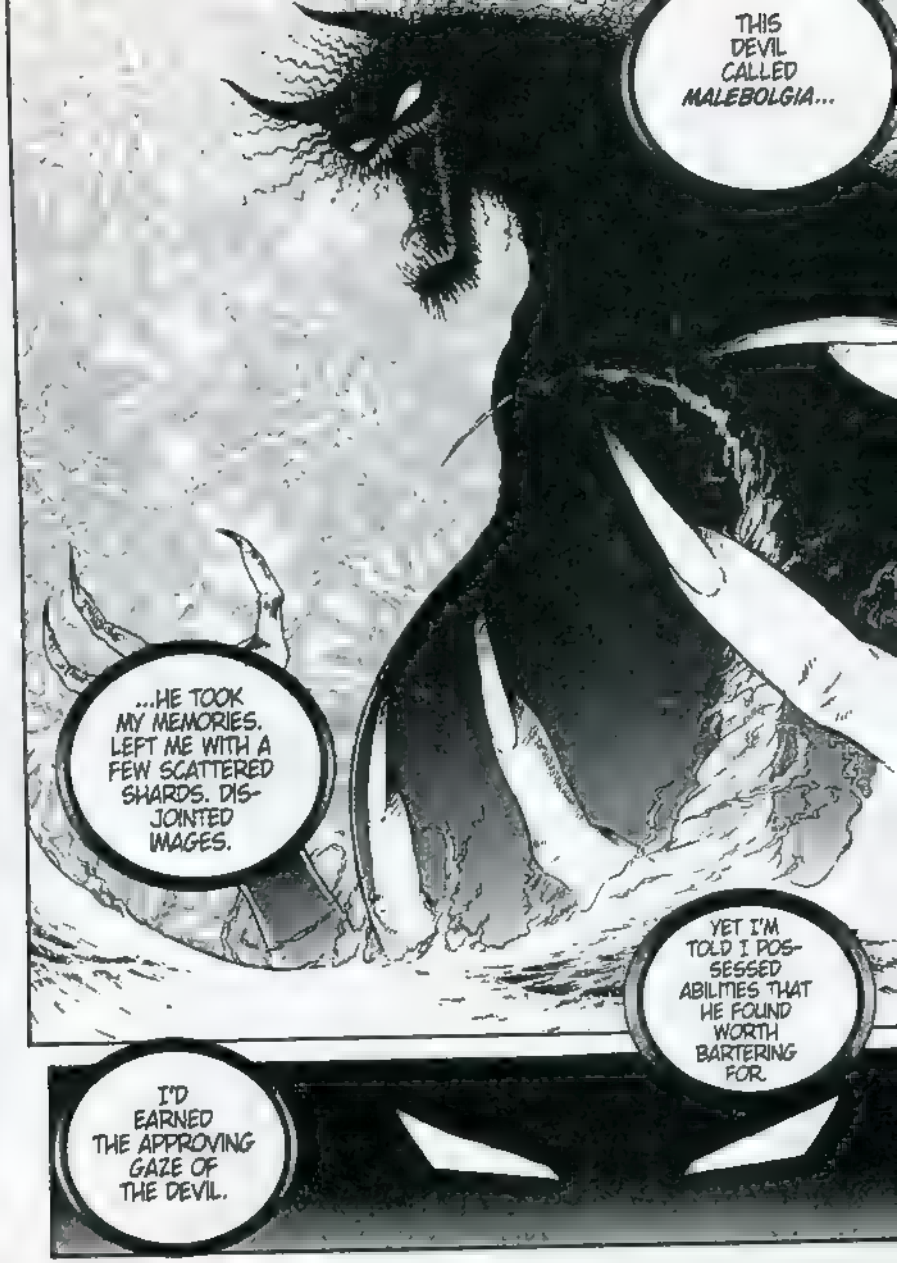
WHAT?
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME HER TV *BLEW-UP* AND DID ALL *THAT DAMAGE?!*
"MICROBURST?" I'M ASSUMING THAT'S FANCY TALK FOR AN "ELECTRICAL PROBLEM".
MAKES YOU WONDER IF IT TIES INTO THE *PECULIAR WEATHER* WE'VE BEEN HAVING.
THEY SAID IT LOOKED LIKE A SMALL TOR-NADO SWEPT THROUGH THERE.
I'M NOT QUITE SURE MYSELF, BUT THAT'S WHAT THE POLICE SAY.

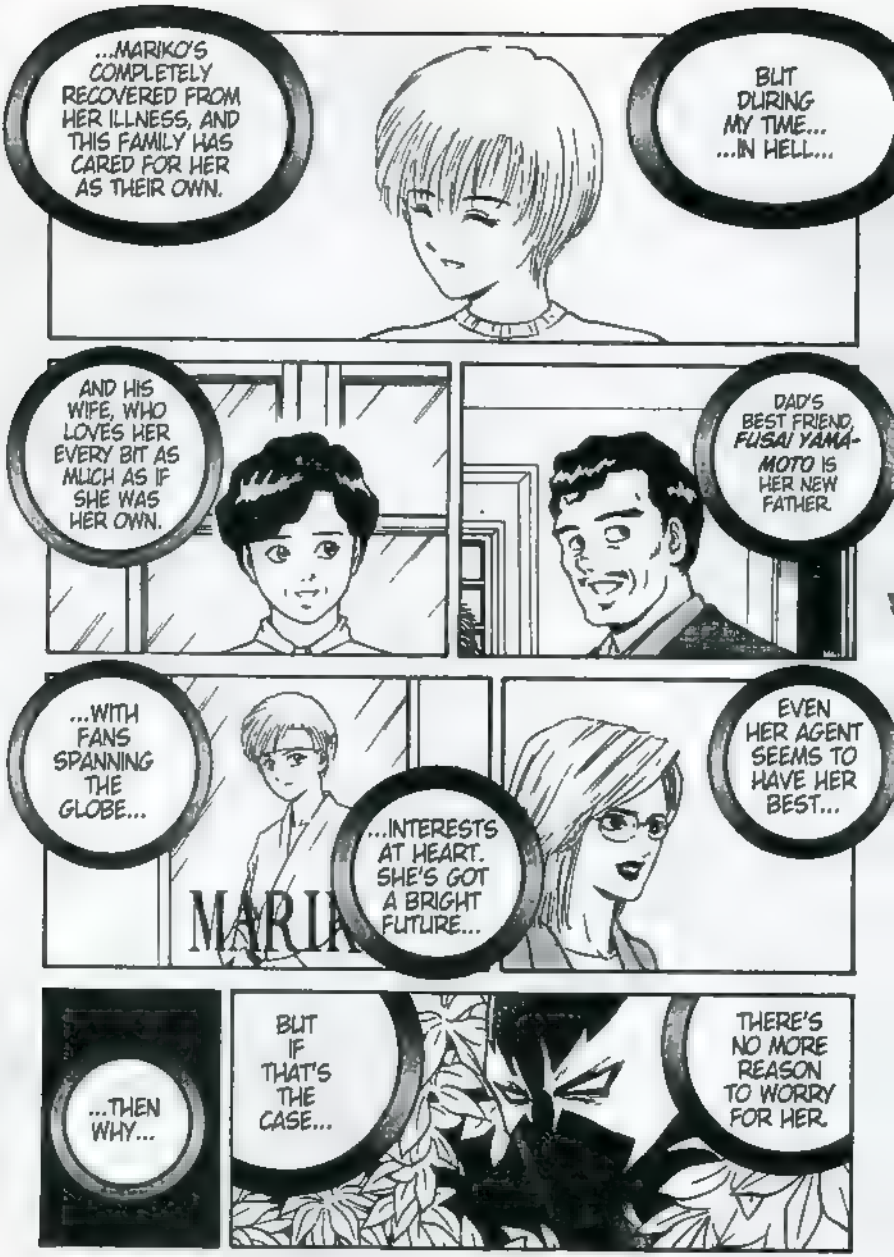
ALL WE NEED TO KNOW IS THAT MARIKO WASN'T HURT.
JUST TRYING TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD. NOT MAKE LIGHT OF--
NOW THAT'S JUST--
...AND THEN COMING BACK TO YOU SO SOON.. IT'S A BIT EMBARAS-SING.
I'M SO SORRY. MOVING OUT LESS THAN A MONTH AGO...
BUT UNTIL THEY FINISH FIX-ING MARIKO'S ROOM, I LEAVE HER IN YOUR GOOD HANDS.
YOU'RE RIGHT!
SAI-SAN WAS WILLING TO SPEND AND USE WHAT-EVER PEOPLE IT'D TAKE TO FIND YOU WHEN HE THOUGHT YOU WERE MISSING.
HE'S RIGHT, MARIKO. THE WORLD IS A DAN-GEROUS PLACE.
WHY JUST MOVE BACK FOR A LITTLE WHILE? WHY NOT JUST STAY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE DIDN'T WANT YOU MOVING OUT AT ALL.

WE'VE NO CHILDREN OF OUR OWN AND ALWAYS CONSIDERED YOUR COMING TO LIVE WITH US A BLESSING FROM GOD.
YOUR FATHER AND MY HUSBAND WERE LIKE BROTHERS.
ALL OF MY HAPPINESS...
...MY BROTHER--
NO.
NOT GOD.
...MAYBE WE COULD HAVE--
HAD WE KNOWN SOONER ABOUT THAT SITUATION...
WE ALL READ ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO *KEN* IN THE PAPERS.
HMMM. I UNDERSTAND.
I DIDN'T MEAN IT TO SOUND LIKE THAT!
NO, NO! AUNTIE, UNCLE, I--

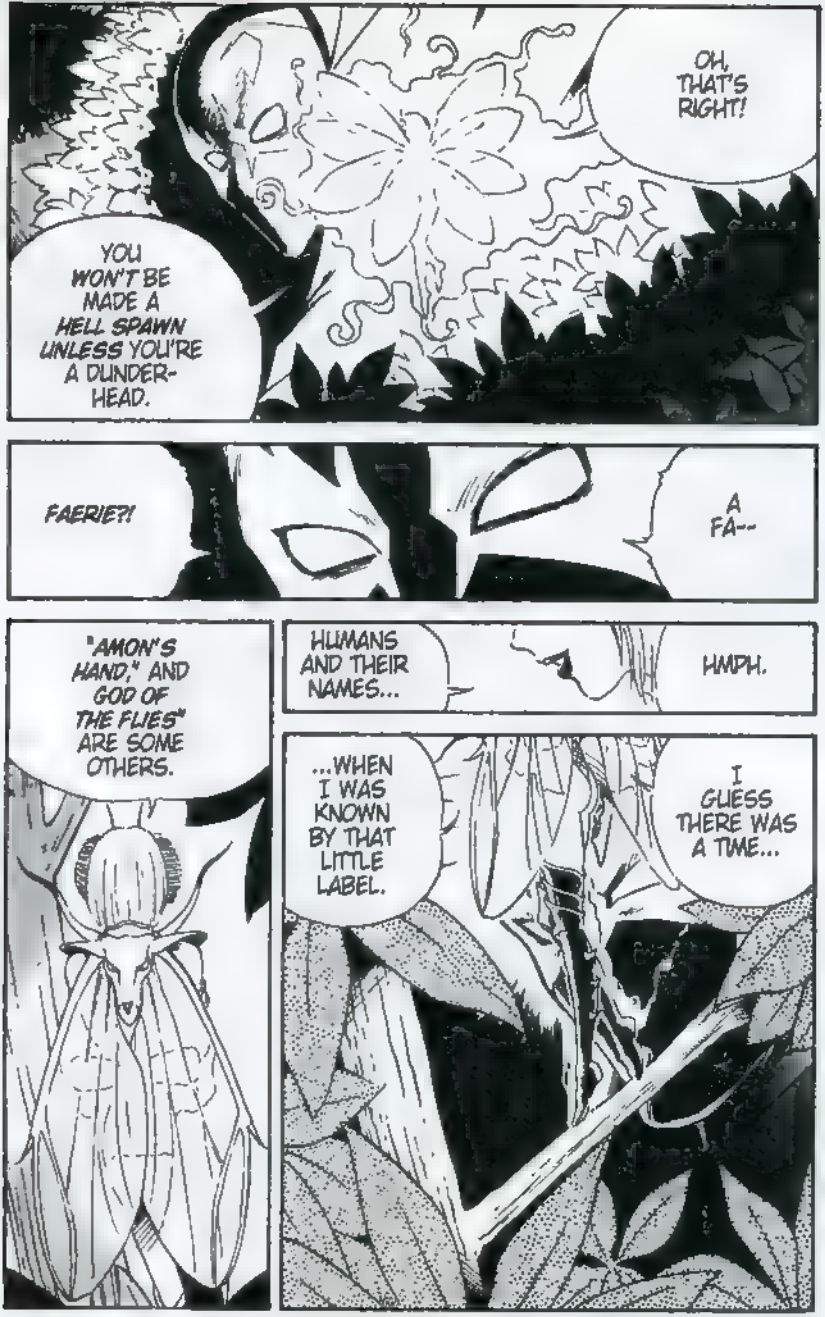
I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND ONE THING, MARIKO. I WAS TOO LATE FOR KEN--
BUT I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SEE YOU HAPPY. YOU HAVE TO BE HAPPY FOR YOU AND YOUR BROTHER.
THANK YOU...
...BOTH OF YOU...
RIGHT NOW, I TRULY AM HAPPY.
SHE LOOKS... AT PEACE.
MARIKO'S FOUND JOY IN HER NEW LIFE WITH THIS FAMILY.

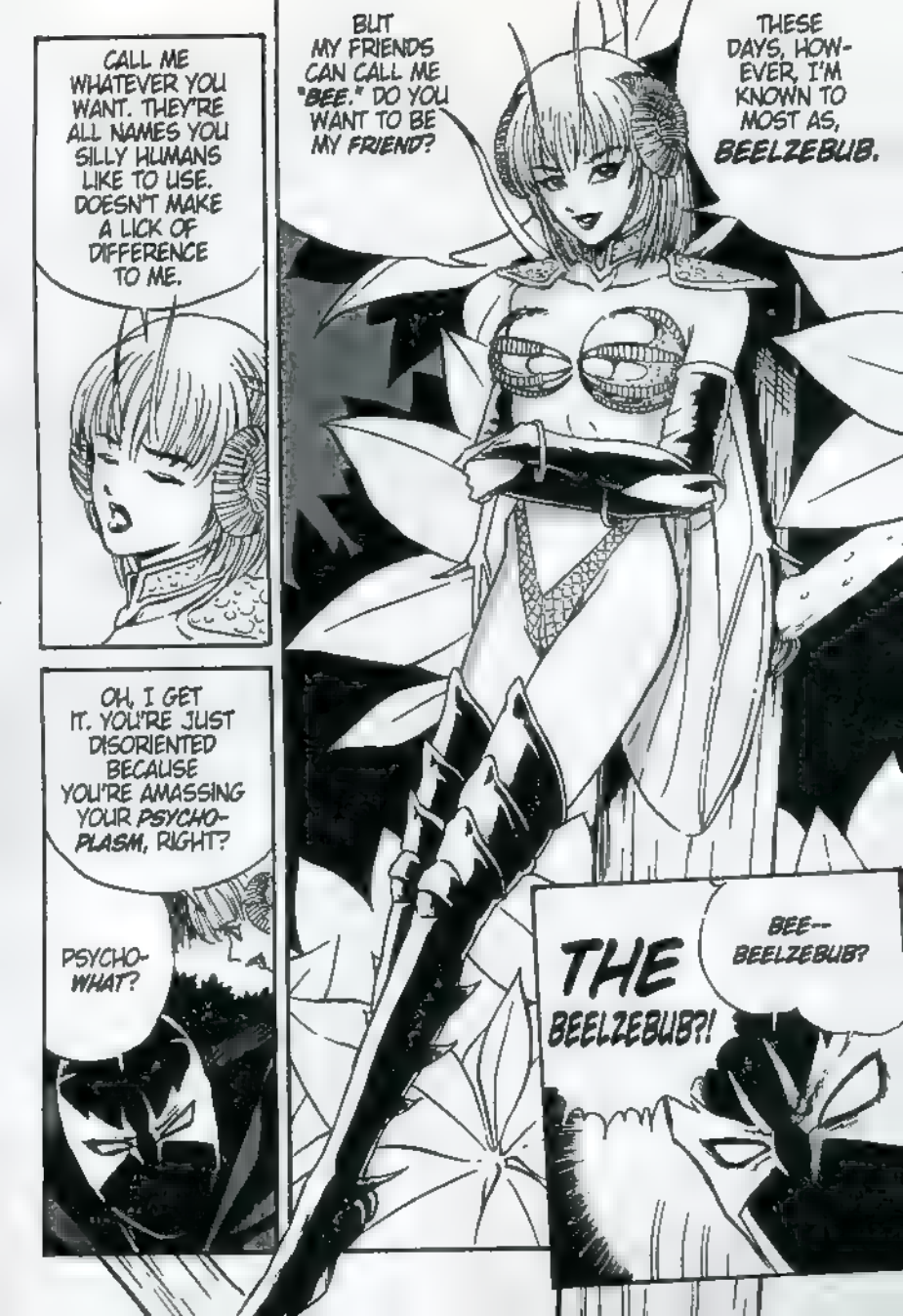
SEVEN YEARS.
SEVEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT DAY. THAT'S WHAT *THE CLOWN* SAID.
THAT IT TAKES *FIVE TO TEN YEARS* TO RECALL A *HELL SPAWN.*
ON TOP OF IT ALL, ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE AN "INDISPENSIBLE" SKILL THAT CATCHES THE DEVIL'S FAVOR ARE ACTUALLY ALLOWED TO BECOME SPAWN.
THE ONE CALLED CLOWN DIDN'T GIVE ME NEARLY ENOUGH TO FILL-IN MY LAST SEVEN YEARS.
AND HE'S LEAVING FOR THE MOMENT TO NEW YORK... "TO GET A LITTLE CONTRACT SQUARED AWAY," IS HOW HE PUT IT. GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT THAT MEANS TO A THING LIKE HIM.


THIS DEVIL CALLED MALEBOLGIA...
...HE TOOK MY MEMORIES. LEFT ME WITH A FEW SCATTERED SHARDS. DISJOINTED IMAGES.
YET I'M TOLD I POSSESSED ABILITIES THAT HE FOUND WORTH BARTERING FOR.
I'D EARNED THE APPROVING GAZE OF THE DEVIL.

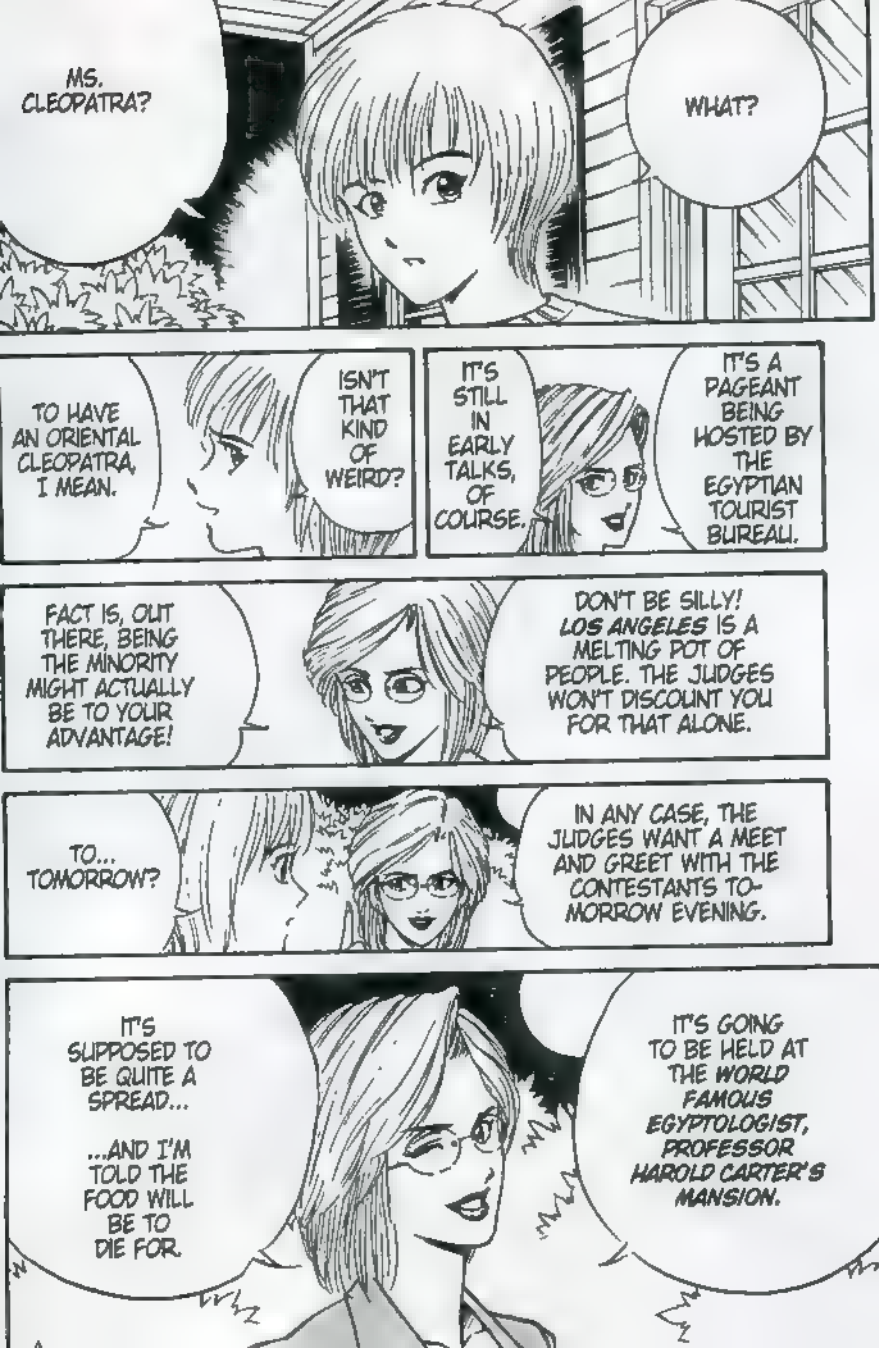

...MARIKO'S COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM HER ILLNESS, AND THIS FAMILY HAS CARED FOR HER AS THEIR OWN.
BUT DURING MY TIME... ...IN HELL...
AND HIS WIFE, WHO LOVES HER EVERY BIT AS MUCH AS IF SHE WAS HER OWN.
DAD'S BEST FRIEND, FUSAI YAMAMOTO IS HER NEW FATHER.
...WITH FANS SPANNING THE GLOBE...
...INTERESTS AT HEART. SHE'S GOT A BRIGHT FUTURE...
EVEN HER AGENT SEEMS TO HAVE HER BEST...
MARIA
...THEN WHY...
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...
THERE'S NO MORE REASON TO WORRY FOR HER.

WHY DID I SELL OFF MY PRECIOUS SOUL?!
...WHY, EXACTLY, WAS I BROUGHT BACK?
!?
YOU'RE ONE OF THE NEW CHARGES, OF COURSE!
TEE-HEE-HEE. AREN'T YOU THE CUTEST LITTLE FOOL.


OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU WON'T BE MADE A HELL SPAWN UNLESS YOU'RE A DUNDER-HEAD.
FAERIE?!
A FA--
"AMON'S HAND," AND GOD OF THE FLIES" ARE SOME OTHERS.
HUMANS AND THEIR NAMES...
HMPH.
...WHEN I WAS KNOWN BY THAT LITTLE LABEL.
I GUESS THERE WAS A TIME...

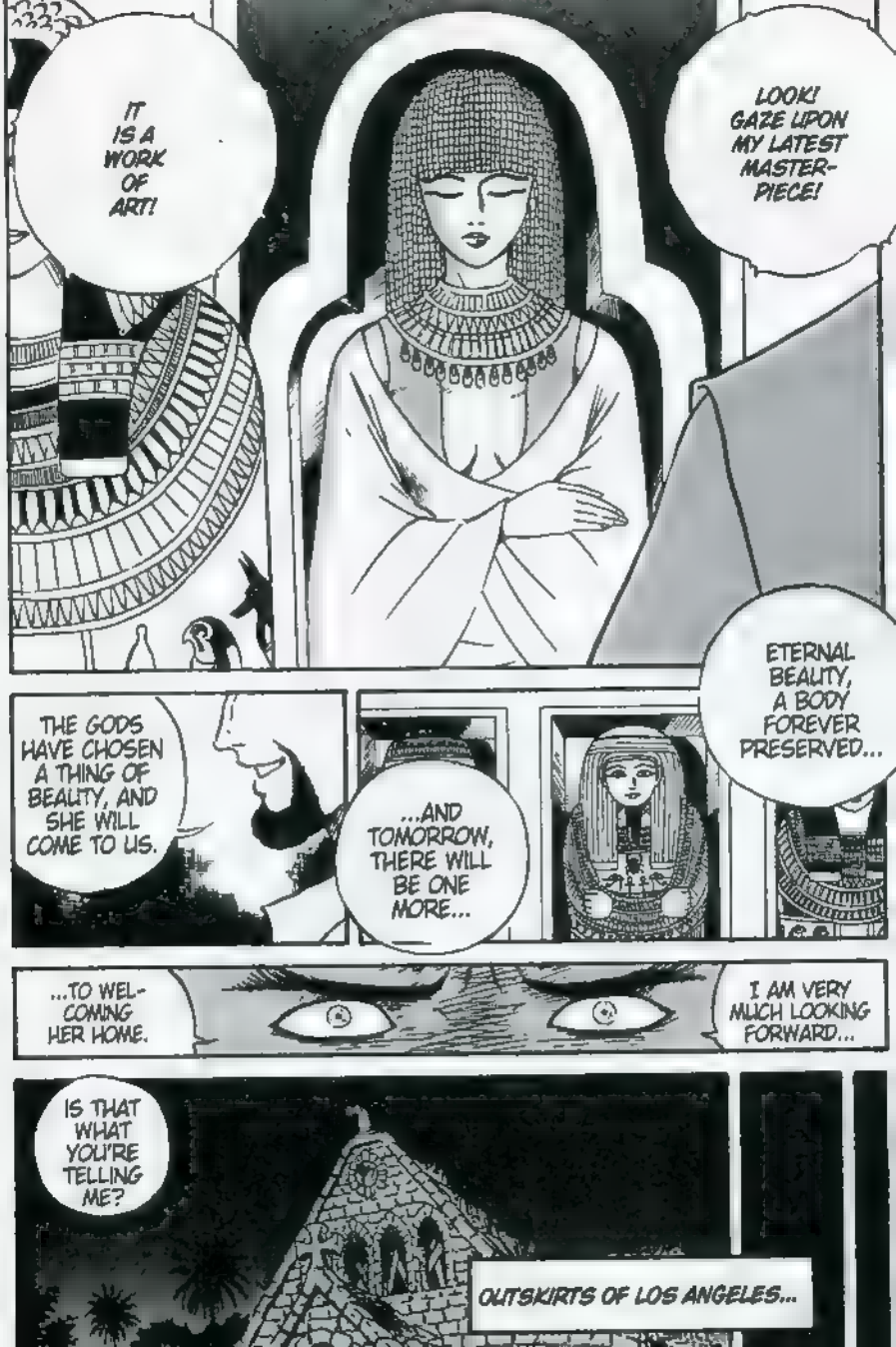

CALL ME WHATEVER YOU WANT. THEY'RE ALL NAMES YOU SILLY HUMANS LIKE TO USE. DOESN'T MAKE A LICK OF DIFFERENCE TO ME.
BUT MY FRIENDS CAN CALL ME "BEE." DO YOU WANT TO BE MY FRIEND?
THESE DAYS, HOWEVER, I'M KNOWN TO MOST AS, BEELZEBUB.
OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE JUST DISORIENTED BECAUSE YOU'RE AMASSING YOUR PSYCHOPLASM, RIGHT?
PSYCHO-WHAT?
THE BEELZEBUB?!
BEE--BEELZEBUB?

WOW. YOU'RE PRETTY HARD OF HEARING, AREN'T YA?
PHLEBIAC?
EXACTLY HOW MUCH DID THAT PHLEBIAC TEACH YOU?
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THAT? IT'S ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE USELESS TERMS YOU HUMANS CAME UP WITH, YOU KNOW.
WE'RE GOING TO DO THINGS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU DID WITH THE PHLEBIAC. I'M NOT ONE OF MALEBOLGIA'S SUBORDINATES...
...SO DON'T GROUP ME WITH THE OTHER GUY OKAY?
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR NOW IS THAT THE PHLEBIAC ASKED ME TO PICK UP YOUR NEXT ROUND OF TRAINING.
...YOU ARE A QUICK STUDY.
SO...
...HE LEFT YOU TO BABYSIT ME AND MAKE SURE I STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.
MEANING, THE PHLEBIAC IS THE CLOWN. AND WHILE HE'S IN NEW YORK...
.....
SO TRY NOT TO BE TOO BIG A BOTHER FOR ME, HEH?
THAT SUMS IT UP NICELY.


MS. CLEOPATRA?
WHAT?
TO HAVE AN ORIENTAL CLEOPATRA, I MEAN.
ISN'T THAT KIND OF WEIRD?
IT'S STILL IN EARLY TALKS, OF COURSE.
IT'S A PAGEANT BEING HOSTED BY THE EGYPTIAN TOURIST BUREAU.
FACT IS, OUT THERE, BEING THE MINORITY MIGHT ACTUALLY BE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!
DON'T BE SILLY! *LOS ANGELES* IS A MELTING POT OF PEOPLE. THE JUDGES WON'T DISCOUNT YOU FOR THAT ALONE.
TO... TOMORROW?
IN ANY CASE, THE JUDGES WANT A MEET AND GREET WITH THE CONTESTANTS TOMORROW EVENING.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE QUITE A SPREAD...
...AND I'M TOLD THE FOOD WILL BE TO DIE FOR.
IT'S GOING TO BE HELD AT THE *WORLD FAMOUS EGYPTOLOGIST, PROFESSOR HAROLD CARTER'S MANSION.*

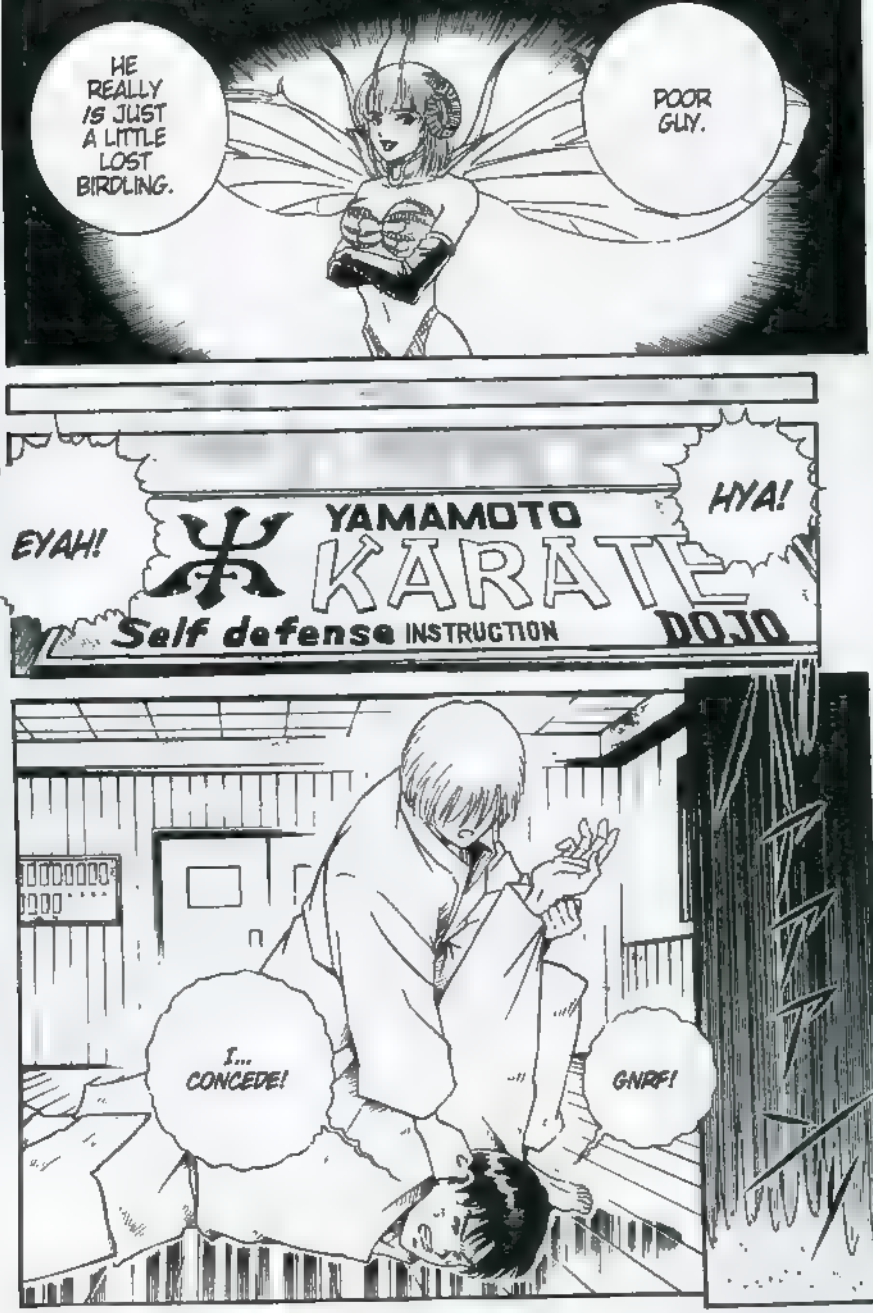
SOUNDS GOOD!
I'LL BE BY TO-MORROW EVENING, THEN.
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE THE ARCHAEOLOGIST BUFF AREN'T YOU? THEN THIS WORKS OUT NICELY!
PROFESSOR CARTER? I HAVE A NUMBER OF HIS BOOKS.
HNH?
PROFESSOR HAROLD CARTER...
HAROLD CARTER
...I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS!
IS EVERYTHING PREPARED TO YOUR SATISFACTION, MASTER?

OF COURSE IT IS, MASTER. YOUR SKILL IS, AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, EXEMPLARY.
IT'S ABSOLUTELY *EXQUISITE*, DON'T YOU THINK, *HASSAN*?
WHICH IS WHY I'VE PREPARED THIS CEREMONY TO BE DONE AS IT WAS IN THEIR DAY.
HMN. I JUST WANT TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE GODS OF EGYPT.
I DARESAY EVEN THE PRIESTS OF 5000 YEARS AGO WOULD BE TONGUE TIED.
AND THE EMBALMING.
ALL IN THEIR PROPER CANOPIC JARS.
HEART, LUNGS, LIVER, INTESTINES...
...I USE COLORED SILICONE AND PLASTICINE, THUS ENSURING THAT THESE BEAUTIES WON'T HAVE TO HIDE IN DIRTY BANDAGES. THEY CAN BE KEPT IN THEIR PUREST FORM!
INSTEAD OF USING NATURAL PLANT EXTRACTS AND OILS TO PRESERVE THE BODIES...


IT IS A WORK OF ART!
LOOK! GAZE UPON MY LATEST MASTER-PIECE!
ETERNAL BEAUTY, A BODY FOREVER PRESERVED...
THE GODS HAVE CHOSEN A THING OF BEAUTY, AND SHE WILL COME TO US.
...AND TOMORROW, THERE WILL BE ONE MORE...
...TO WEL-COMING HER HOME.
I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD...
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?
OUTSKIRTS OF LOS ANGELES...

THAT MARIKO NO LONGER HAS ANY NEED FOR ME IN HER LIFE?
ANSWER ME! IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT?
THIS IS THE SHARED FATE OF ALL WHO STRIKE A DEAL WITH MALEBOLGIA.
SILLY, ACCIDENTAL RECRUIT... ...WITH A BAD MEMORY, AT THAT!
FOR YOU TO JUST REALIZE THAT NOW IS POINTLESS, ISN'T IT?!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
?
KEEP RUNNING THAT MOUTH THE WAY YOU ARE, I'LL CRUSH YOU LIKE A BUG.
BLAH!
GO AHEAD AND DO IT, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN!
LINK!

USUALLY THEY TRY TO CRUSH ME, ONLY TO FIND OUT THEY CAN'T, AND I GIVE THEM A LITTLE PAIN TO LEARN THE LESSON BY. IT'S ALMOST STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE.
HMMM... AREN'T WE A DIFFERENT KIND OF HELL SPAWN?
GO AWAY.
!
GO AWAY.
JUST UP AND FLEW RIGHT OUT OF YOUR HAND?
OR DID YOU KNOW I COULD'VE EASILY BROKEN FREE?
NOT LIKELY..
ANOTHER ONE WHO FELL FOR MALEBOLGIA'S OLD BAIT-AND-SWITCH.
HUMPH!


HE REALLY IS JUST A LITTLE LOST BIRDLING.
POOR GUY.
EYAH!
YAMAMOTO KARATE
Self defense INSTRUCTION
DOJO
HYA!
I... CONCEDE!
GNRF!

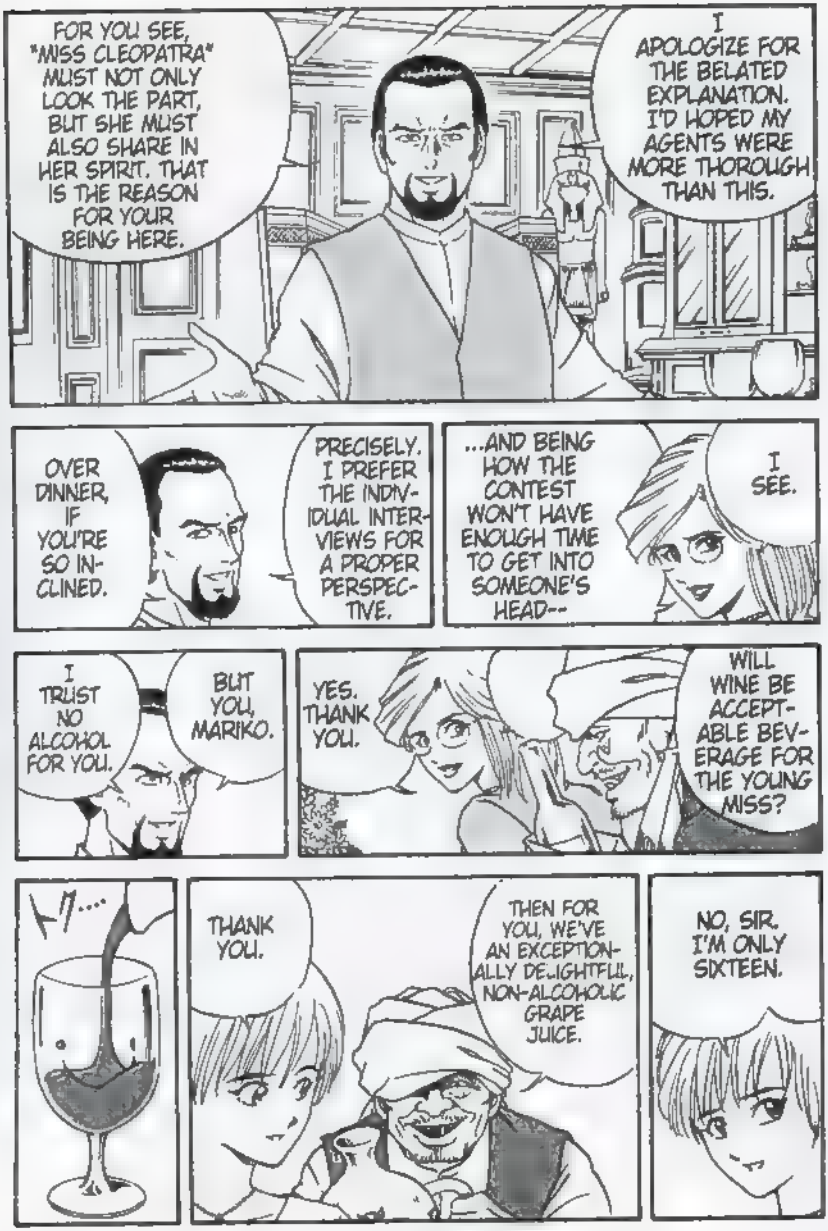
WHEW!
...IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME ONE BIT!
HEH, HEH. SO LONG AS IT'S MARIKO...
IT'S GOT TO BE A LITTLE EMBARASSING LOSING TO A GIRL THAT MANY TIMES!
HEY, TOSHIO! DID YOU LOSE AGAIN?!
...THAT YOU'LL ACTUALLY TRY TO BEAT ME, OKAY?
JUST PROMISE ME THAT WHEN I GET A LITTLE BETTER...
AND IF YOU EVER NEED MORE PRACTICE, I'M ALWAYS HERE!
ANY TIME!
THANKS, TOSHIO. I'VE GOT A GOOD SWEAT GOING.
YES, SIR. THERE'S A DINNER PARTY FOR WORK I HAVE TO ATTEND.
MARIKO, YOU CALLING IT A DAY ALREADY?
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO THINK OF IT!
EH? NO. REALLY. I MEAN--

THANKS!
YEP! YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A DOJO FULL OF FANS, HERE!
HEY, HEY. GET OUT THERE AND BREAK A LEG!
CUT IT OUT, GUYS. YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH.
MAN! YOU'RE REALLY THE HOLLY-WOOD SUPERSTAR!
WHOO! A PARTY!
THE KARATE SHE'S CAPABLE OF IS A CON-SEQUENCE OF HER BLOOD-LINE INASMUCH AS TRAIN-ING.
I GUESS IN HER CASE, IT'S TRUE.
ACTING NOTWITH-STANDING, SHE'S GOT IMPRESSIVE SKILLS.
I'L.. BE GOING NOW...
HMN?
IT'S A CRYIN' SHAME.
SHE WAS SUP-POSED TO BE LEARNING THE BASICS. PRETTY IMPRESSIVE HOW SHE'S ABLE TO DO WHAT SHE CAN.
...WE WOULD HAVE BEEN WITNESS TO ONE OF THE GREATEST MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPIONS EVER.
IF HER BROTHER HADN'T RUN WITH THE WRONG CROWDS AND GOTTEN HIM-SELF KILLED...

kchik
WOW. THE ENTRY-WAY ALONE LOOKS OVER 100 METERS HIGH!
skree
kchik
BUT WILL YOU LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS PLACE? IT'S LIKE WALKING INTO A MUSEUM OR SOMETHING.
I'VE HEARD HIS LINEAGE GOES BACK TO BRITISH ARISTOCRACY.
...IT'S AWFULLY QUIET...
FOR A PARTY...
キンコン
カンコン
HOW MUCH WOULD IT BE WORTH?
I WONDER IF THIS SPHINX IS FOR REAL?
tap!
gchak!

PLEASE...
...STEP INSIDE...
WELCOME!
THE MASTER HAS BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.
UHM, THANK YOU...
TH-THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS INVITATION...
O-- OKAY...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, DON'T SAY ANYTHING THAT WOULD DESECRATE THE DE-CEASED.
C-COME ON. A TOMB?!
THIS PLACE LOOKS LESS LIKE A MU-SEUM, AND MORE LIKE THE INSIDE OF A TOMB.

THEY'RE OF SETI THE FIRST'S DESCENT TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD, RIGHT?
THESE IMAGES...
LIKE A TRIP TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD, HEH?
THE MASTER WANTED WRITINGS FROM THE VALLEY OF KINGS TRANSCRIBED INTO THE WALLS IN HIS OWN HOME.
OH, VERY GOOD.
YOU WERE THE ONLY TWO WHO WERE INVITED.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
WHERE ARE ALL THE OTHER GUESTS?
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
...THE TWO OF US?
JUST...


FOR YOU SEE, "MISS CLEOPATRA" MUST NOT ONLY LOOK THE PART, BUT SHE MUST ALSO SHARE IN HER SPIRIT. THAT IS THE REASON FOR YOUR BEING HERE.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE BELATED EXPLANATION. I'D HOPED MY AGENTS WERE MORE THOROUGH THAN THIS.
OVER DINNER, IF YOU'RE SO INCLINED.
PRECISELY. I PREFER THE INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS FOR A PROPER PERSPECTIVE.
...AND BEING HOW THE CONTEST WON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GET INTO SOMEONE'S HEAD--
I SEE.
I TRUST NO ALCOHOL FOR YOU.
BUT YOU, MARIKO.
YES. THANK YOU.
WILL WINE BE ACCEPTABLE BEVERAGE FOR THE YOUNG MISS?
HM....
THANK YOU.
THEN FOR YOU, WE'VE AN EXCEPTIONALLY DELIGHTFUL, NON-ALCOHOLIC GRAPE JUICE.
NO, SIR. I'M ONLY SIXTEEN.

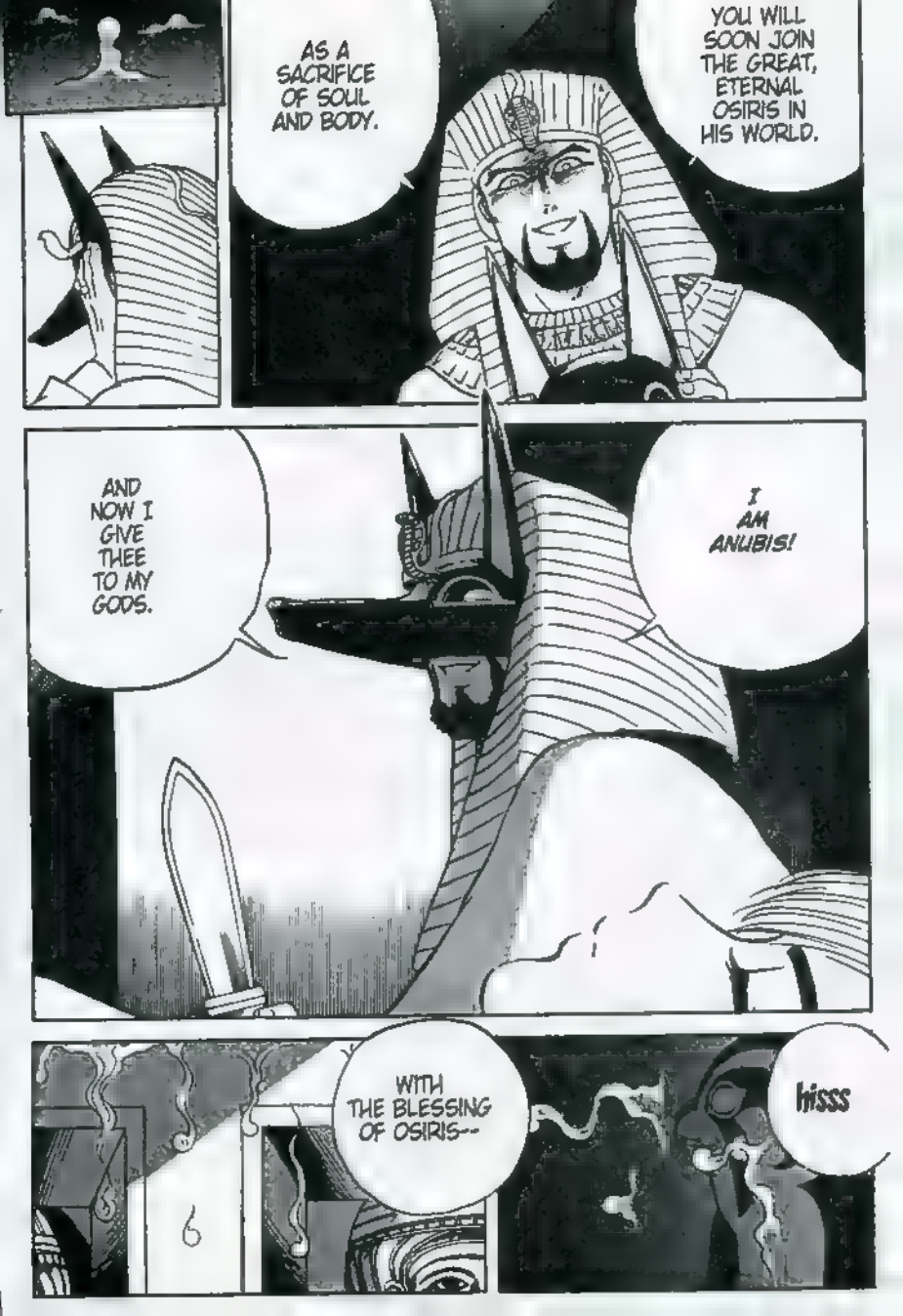
.....
.....
...IS PERFECT IN RAISING SOME OF THE FINEST GRAPES AROUND.
EGYPT HAS HISTORICALLY HAD LITTLE MORE THAN A LOT OF SUN. BUT THAT SUN...
AND THE JUICE IS HEAVENLY SWEET.
THIS WINE HAS AN IN-CREDIBLE BODY TO IT.
...ANCIENT EGYPT WAS THE WINE CAPITOL OF THE OLD WORLD.
WHILE DRINKING IS AGAINST THE PRETEXT OF MODERN ISLAM...
IT'S DELIC-IOUS!
SO THIS IS AN EGYPTIAN WINE...
HFFF
....?
I...
THINK... I...
AHHH... OKAY...

WHICH ONE?
SO... WHICH SHALL WE START WITH?
DO YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK?
COME, NOW, HASSAN.
I SAID WAIT UP!
HEY!

I SAID HOLD-UP!
WHERE ARE YOU! OFF TO IN SUCH A RUSH?!
IF I'M NOT HERE FOR MARIKO, THEN THAT MEANS I'M HERE FOR SOMETHING ELSE.
AND THAT REASON CAN ONLY BE ONE THING!

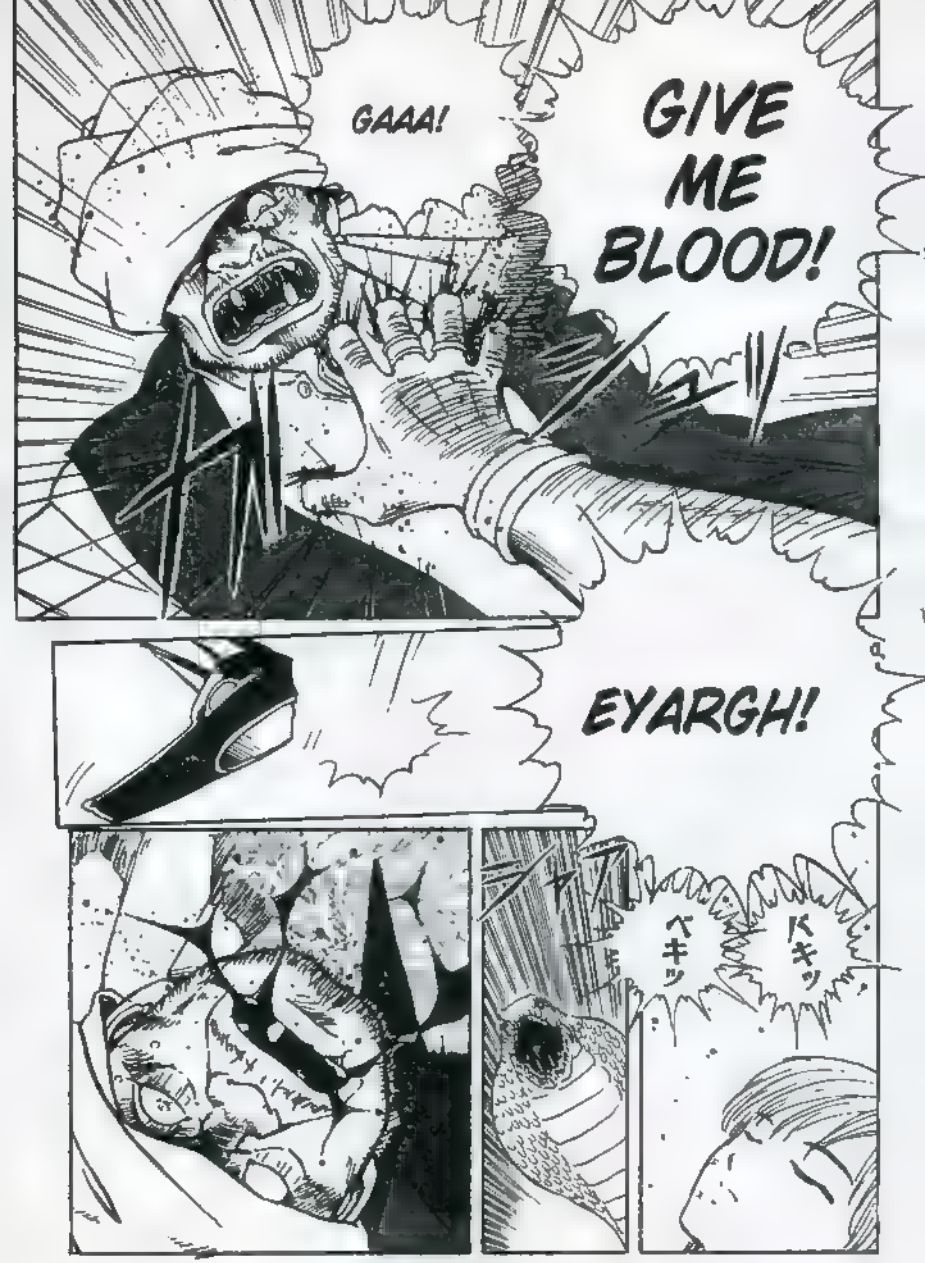
REVENGE!

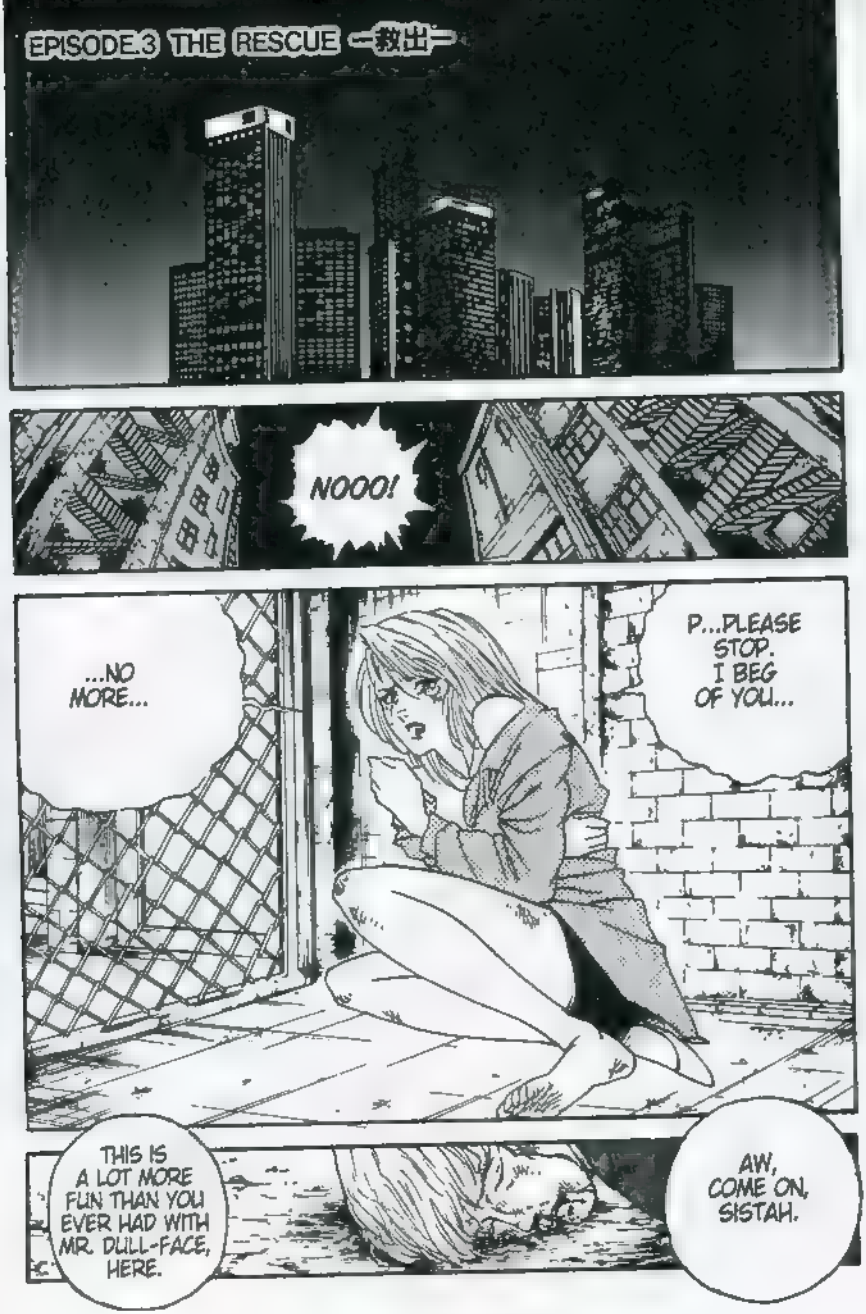
MALEBOLGIA REALLY HAS YOU TURNED AROUND, DOESN'T HE?
SILLY FOOL. DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU WERE BROUGHT BACK TO TAKE REVENGE ON SOME TWO BIT THUGS?
...WILL FINALLY CLOSE.
AND NOW THE CIRCLE...


AS A SACRIFICE OF SOUL AND BODY.
YOU WILL SOON JOIN THE GREAT, ETERNAL OSIRIS IN HIS WORLD.
AND NOW I GIVE THEE TO MY GODS.
I AM ANUBIS!
WITH THE BLESSING OF OSIRIS--
hisss
6

M--
MASTER?
HNRG!
AGRGH!
?
GRAAAA!
HAGH--
HAAAAA...
O...
O--
MASTER, WHAT'S WRONG?!

OSIRIS!
ARE YOU--
MASTER?
...BLOOD!
...NEED...
I...
HGRRRAH!
BLOOD!


GAAA!
GIVE ME BLOOD!
EYARGH!
バキッ
ベキッ


EPISODE.3 THE RESCUE ―救出―
NOOO!
...NO MORE...
P...PLEASE STOP. I BEG OF YOU...
THIS IS A LOT MORE FUN THAN YOU EVER HAD WITH MR. DULL-FACE, HERE.
AW, COME ON, SISTAH.

WE'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF YOU.
WE'LL EVEN BE YOUR BOYFRIENDS IF YA LIKE!
NOW WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME ON OVER AND PARTY WITH US?
AIN'T NOBODY GONNA COME HELP YOU, LADY.
AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT, IN THIS PART OF TOWN?
SOMEONE, HELP ME!
N--NO!
NOOO!
NOW GET OVER HERE AND START BEING GOOD TO US!
WHAT TH--
HMM?

WH-- WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
...BEFORE YOU PROCEED WITH YOUR GOOD TIME.
I'VE A FEW THINGS I NEED TO ASK OF YOU...
HELP ME!
PLEASE HELP ME!
I--

LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE ZANY MEXICAN WRESTLERS!
THIS ONE'S A PIECE OF WORK!
WHOO!
WELLLLL, WHOEVER YOU ARE...
.....
.....
OR MAYBE YOU'RE SOME KIND OF SUPERHERO?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A SPIDER OR A BAT...
ボオオン
...I SERIOUSLY DOUBT YOU CAN SURVIVE A .357 NOSEBLEED.

THAT'S NOT THE STORY I CAME HERE TO LISTEN TO.
Crunch
SNAP!
RAGH!
?!
BASTARD!
YOU--

HUFF
HUFF
I'M TELLING YOU, WE DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM SEVEN YEARS BACK!
UNHRRG...
WE... WE DON'T KNOW...
ASK THE COPS IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US!
AND THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR IS DEAD!
DEAD! GONE! BURIED!
...WE'VE CHANGED LEADERS COUNTLESS TIMES SINCE THEN!
EVEN THE D-BLOCK GANG...
RAHG!
NNGH...

SEVEN YEARS...
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME... COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD, IT'S ALL BEEN FOR NOTHING.
...I'M TOO LATE!
I'M...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO WASTE YOUR ENERGY ON SUCH A POINTLESS CAUSE.
I CAN'T EVEN TAKE VENGEANCE FOR MY OWN MURDER.

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GO AWAY.
IT'S THAT LACK OF FORESIGHT MALEBOLGIA PREYS ON, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE A REAL DENSE ONE, AREN'T YA?
THERE'S NO MORE REASON FOR YOU TO BE HERE!
I'VE NO REASON TO LIVE. I'VE NO IDEA WHY I EVEN EXIST ANYMORE. I AM... ...NOTHING.
bzzz
AS PROMISED BY THE PHLEBIAC.
BUT I'M GOING TO GET PAID FOR THE ONE DAY'S INSTRUC-TION.
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT, THAT'S FINE.
PERSONALLY!
AND I'M GOING TO COLLECT SAID PAYMENT FROM YOU--

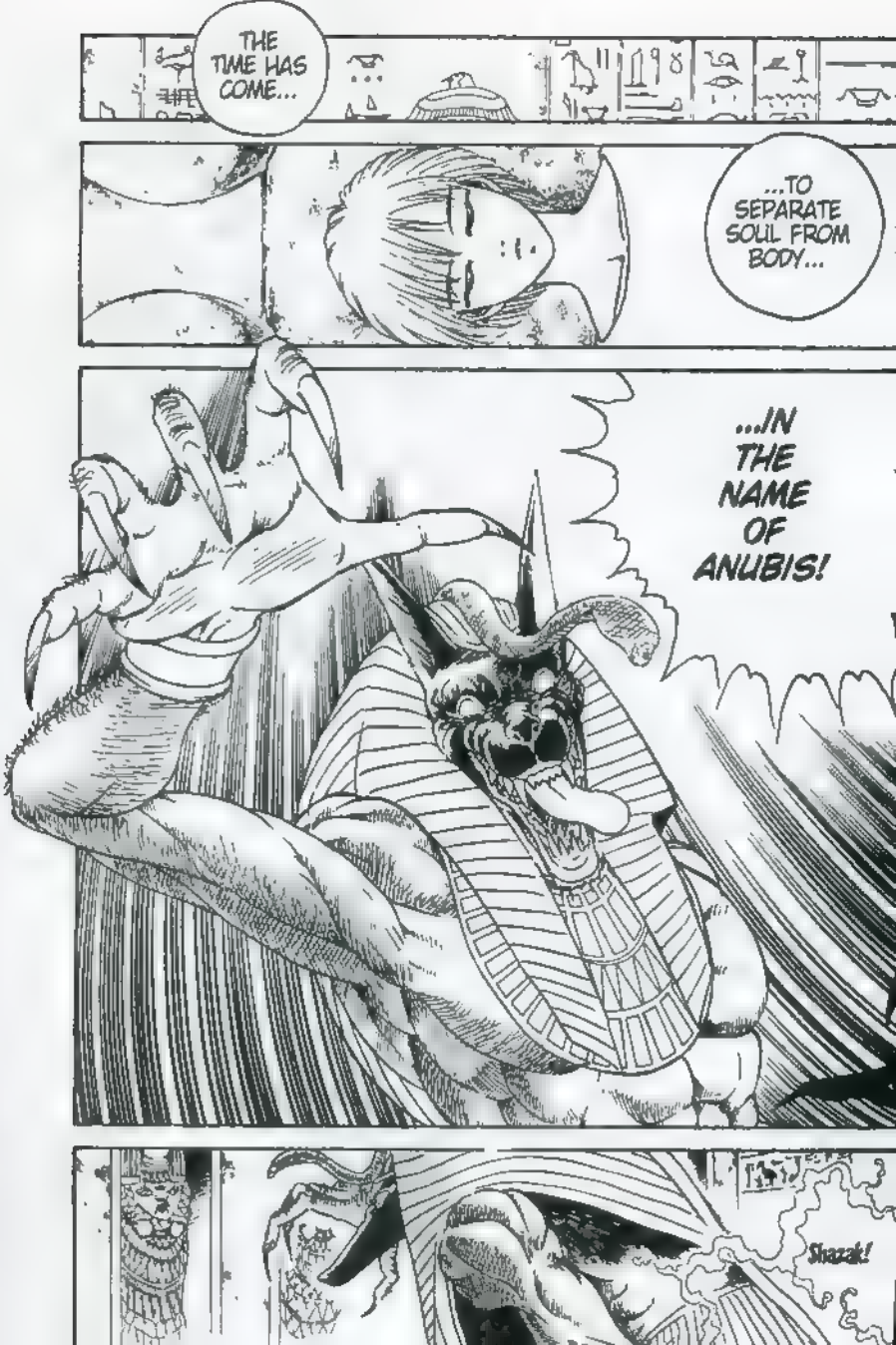
?!
TSWIP
AM I TO BE-LIEVE...
...THAT'S YOUR PAYMENT FOR THE LESSON?
FOR THE "GOD OF FLIES," YOU'RE A LOT MORE LIKE A DAMN MOSQUITO.
YOU'RE JUST OOZING WITH PSYCHO-PLASM.
YOU REALLY ARE A VIRGINAL HELL SPAWN, AREN'T YOU?

HRMM. ABOUT TWO MILES NORTH BY NORTH-WEST, I THINK.
?
SO... I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU ONE MORE LESSON TO SHOW I'M NOT A BAD LITTLE "BEE".
IT WON'T *ITCH*. BUT I'M AFRAID I TOOK IN MORE THAN MY FAIR SHARE.
I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD HURRY... ...THOUGH I DOUBT IF WE COULD GET THERE IN TIME TO SAVE "*THE MOST IMPORTANT THING*" TO YOU.
THERE'S A THINNING OF THE CONTINUUM THAT SEPARATES THIS WORLD FROM THAT OF THE SPIRITS. VERY THIN.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?!
STOP WITH THE RIDDLES.

I... AM...
GRA--!
ANUBIS!
I AM HERE TO LAY CLAIM TO THAT WHICH WAS DEEMED MINE.
GOD AMONG GODS, THE LORD OF THE DEAD!

WHEN PLUTO COMES INTO ALIGNMENT, YOU, TOO, WILL JOIN ME AT MY SIDE.
"IT CAN'T BE" IS A PHRASE I RESERVE FOR MALEBOLGIA'S DOINGS, SO YES.
IT CAN'T BE-- NOT HER!
YOU-
WHAT'S THAT DEVIL PLAYING AT, NOW?!
MAL--
MALEBOLGIA!
...IN MARIKO'S ROOM.
HE'D MENTIONED...
THE CREATURE I FOUGHT...

I REALLY DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT TIME TO BE DISCUSSING THIS, NOW.
WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH MARIKO?!
BEE!
EVEN FLYING, WE'D BE TOO LATE.
HOW DO I GET TO HER? SHOW ME THE WAY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO, "GO AWAY," HUH?
DAMN IT!
...BUT YOU'RE GOING TO GET KILLED FOR IT.
THERE IS ONE WAY...


THE TIME HAS COME...
...TO SEPARATE SOUL FROM BODY...
...IN THE NAME OF ANUBIS!
Shazak!

AND THAT TRICK IS CALLED, TELEPORTING!
THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE IT IN TIME IS WITH THIS LITTLE TRICK.

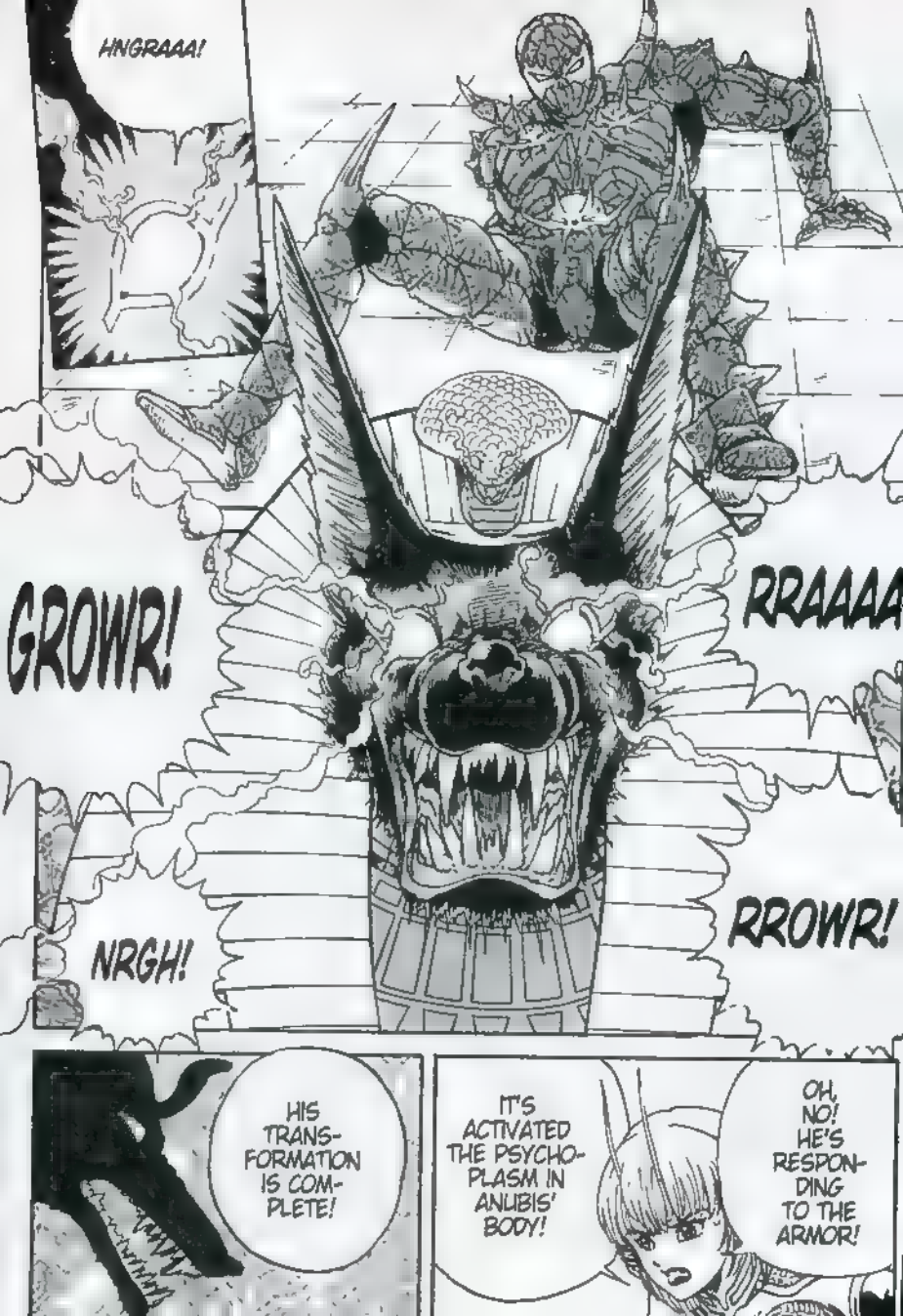
HNH?!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY SISTER?!
TH-- THERE'S NO STRENGTH IN MY PUNCH!
- pok -

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING?
IIIIDIOT.
I CAN'T MOVE!
MY BODY! I CAN'T--
YOU WON'T BE UP TO SNUFF FOR QUITE A WHILE. I SAID IT'D BE THE DEATH OF YOU.
A TELEPORTATION TAKES EVERYTHING OUT OF A HELL SPAWN. LEAVES YOU JUST ENOUGH TO STAY ALIVE... SO TO SPEAK.

HMM. NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT HIM, HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AT FULL STRENGTH.
MEANING?
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
??
"FOR A WHILE?"
IF HE WAS A FULLY TRANSFORMED CREATURE, HE'D HAVE ATTACKED WITHOUT ANY HESITATION.
HE'S JUST A MAN DOPED-UP ON PSYCHOPLASM. HE'S NO SPAWN... BUT HE *IS* PLENTY *CONFUSED*.
...THIS SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM.
IF HE'S JUST A GUY WITH SOME SPARKS IN HIM...
NOT "HUMAN" AS IN "HELPLESS." THAT PSYCHOPLASM IS SOME POTENT STUFF, YOU KNOW.
THAT MEANS HE'S JUST A MAN WITH A DOG MASK AND A BIT MORE BITE THAN YOUR AVERAGE JOE.
HUMAN?

MARIKO.
!
BUT YOU'VE SEEN THE SACRED CHAMBER--
THIS MATTER DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.
AND FOR THAT, YOU MUST BE KILLED!

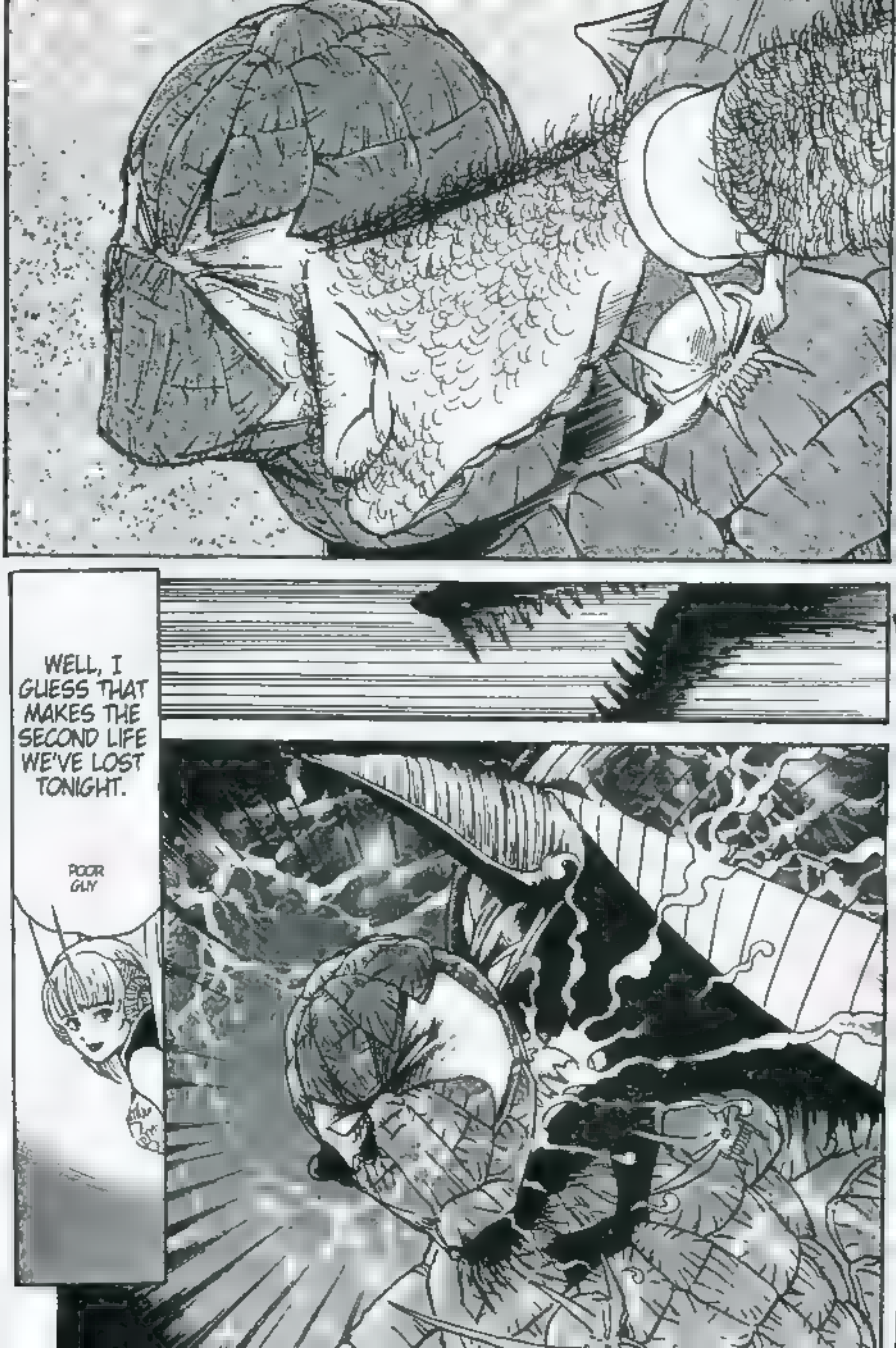
click click
click
click click
click click
click click
?!
UNPH!

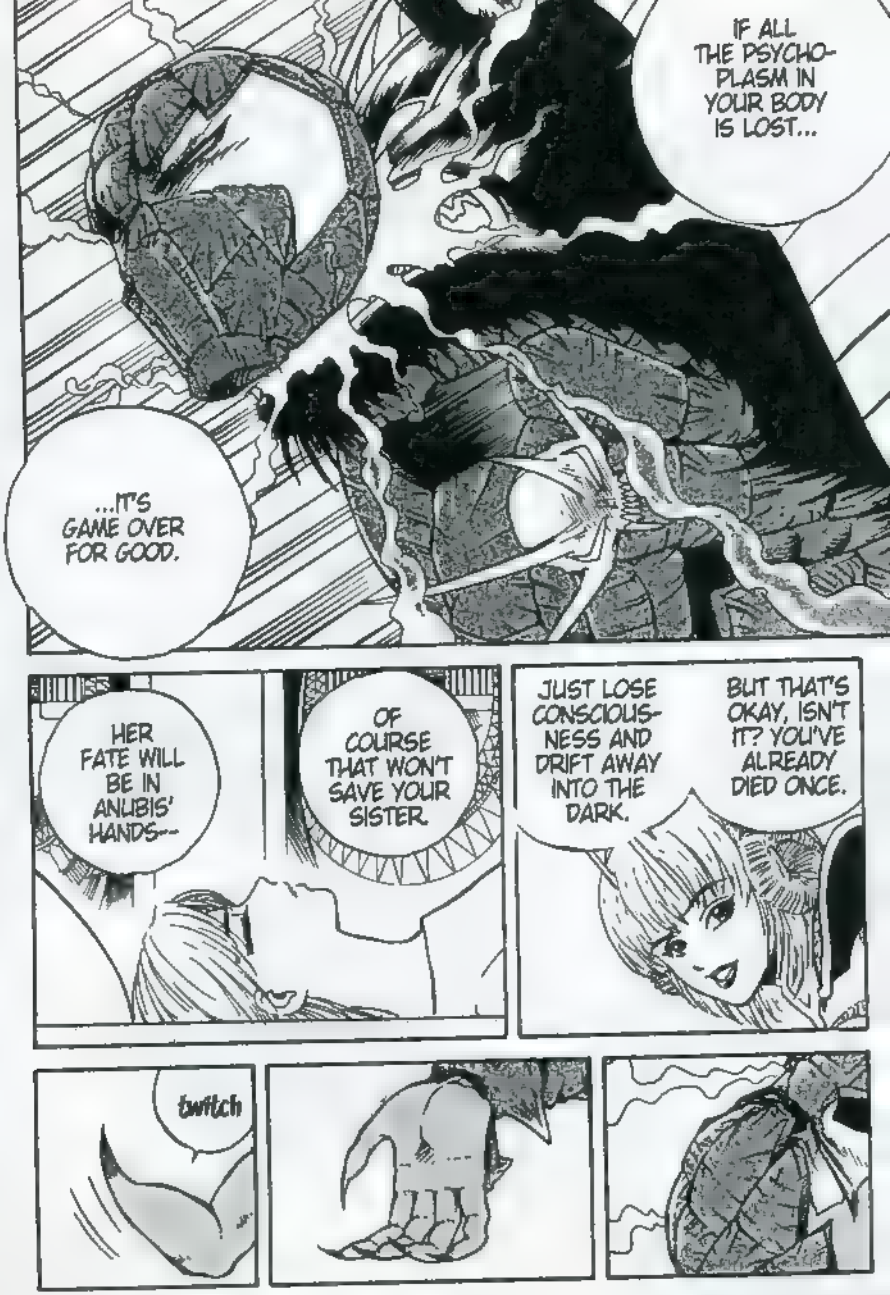

HNGRAAA!
GROWR!
RRAAAA
NRGH!
RROWR!
HIS TRANS-FORMATION IS COM-PLETE!
IT'S ACTIVATED THE PSYCHO-PLASM IN ANUBIS' BODY!
OH, NO! HE'S RESPON-DING TO THE ARMOR!

I...
!!
chomp!

BUT NOW, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN HOPE TO DO AGAINST HIM.
TOO BAD. WE DID WHAT WE COULD.
...I CAN'T STOP MYSELF!
UNF!
Crack!
CrUnCh!
SNAP!

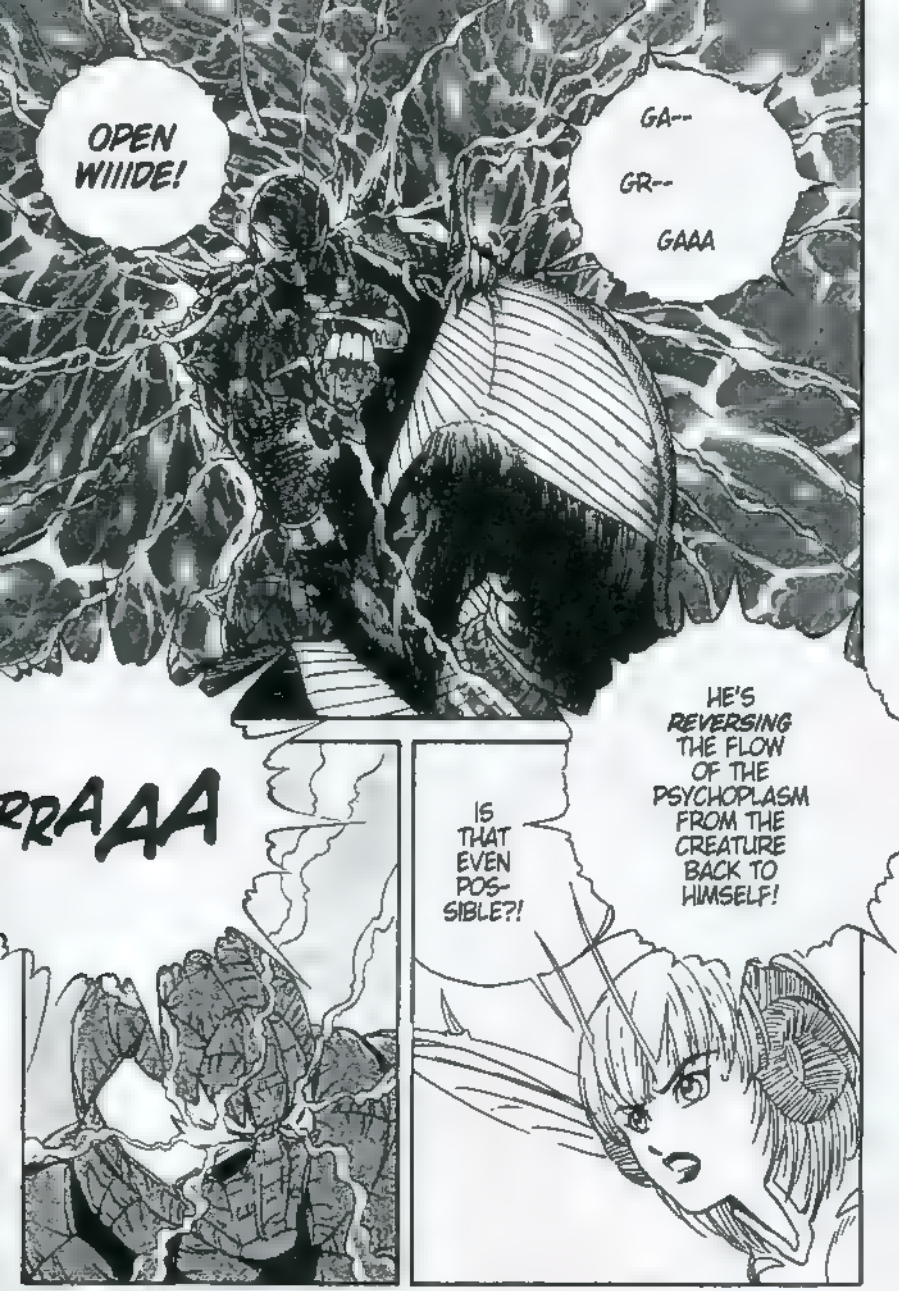
KRAK!
c-c-
clik
WITH THAT KIND OF PUNISH-MENT...
...EVEN THE BATTLE ARMOR WILL GIVE WAY SOON 'NUFF.


WELL, I GUESS THAT MAKES THE SECOND LIFE WE'VE LOST TONIGHT.
POOR GUY

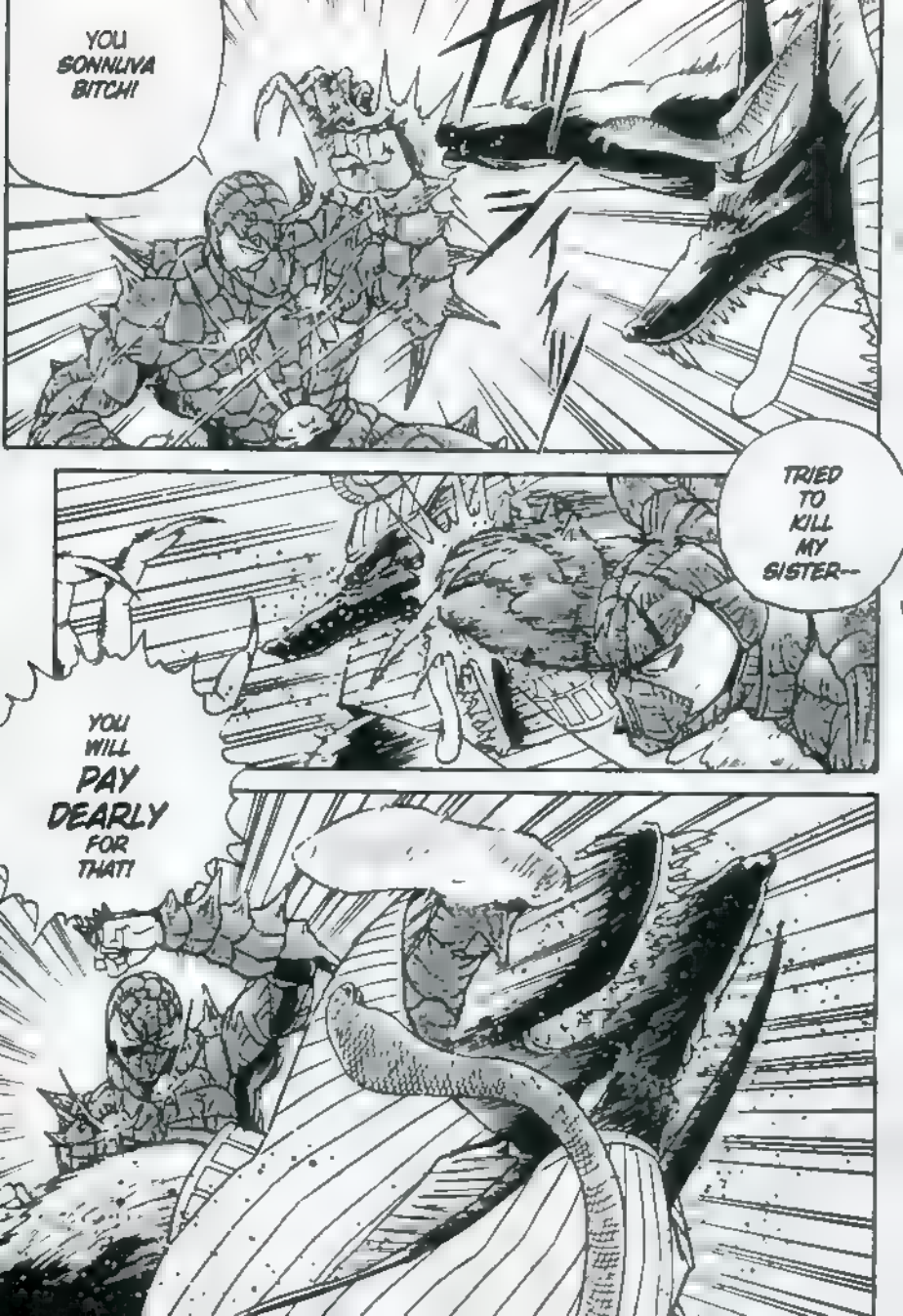

IF ALL THE PSYCHO-PLASM IN YOUR BODY IS LOST...
...IT'S GAME OVER FOR GOOD.
HER FATE WILL BE IN ANUBIS' HANDS--
OF COURSE THAT WON'T SAVE YOUR SISTER.
JUST LOSE CONSCIOUS-NESS AND DRIFT AWAY INTO THE DARK.
BUT THAT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT? YOU'VE ALREADY DIED ONCE.
twitch

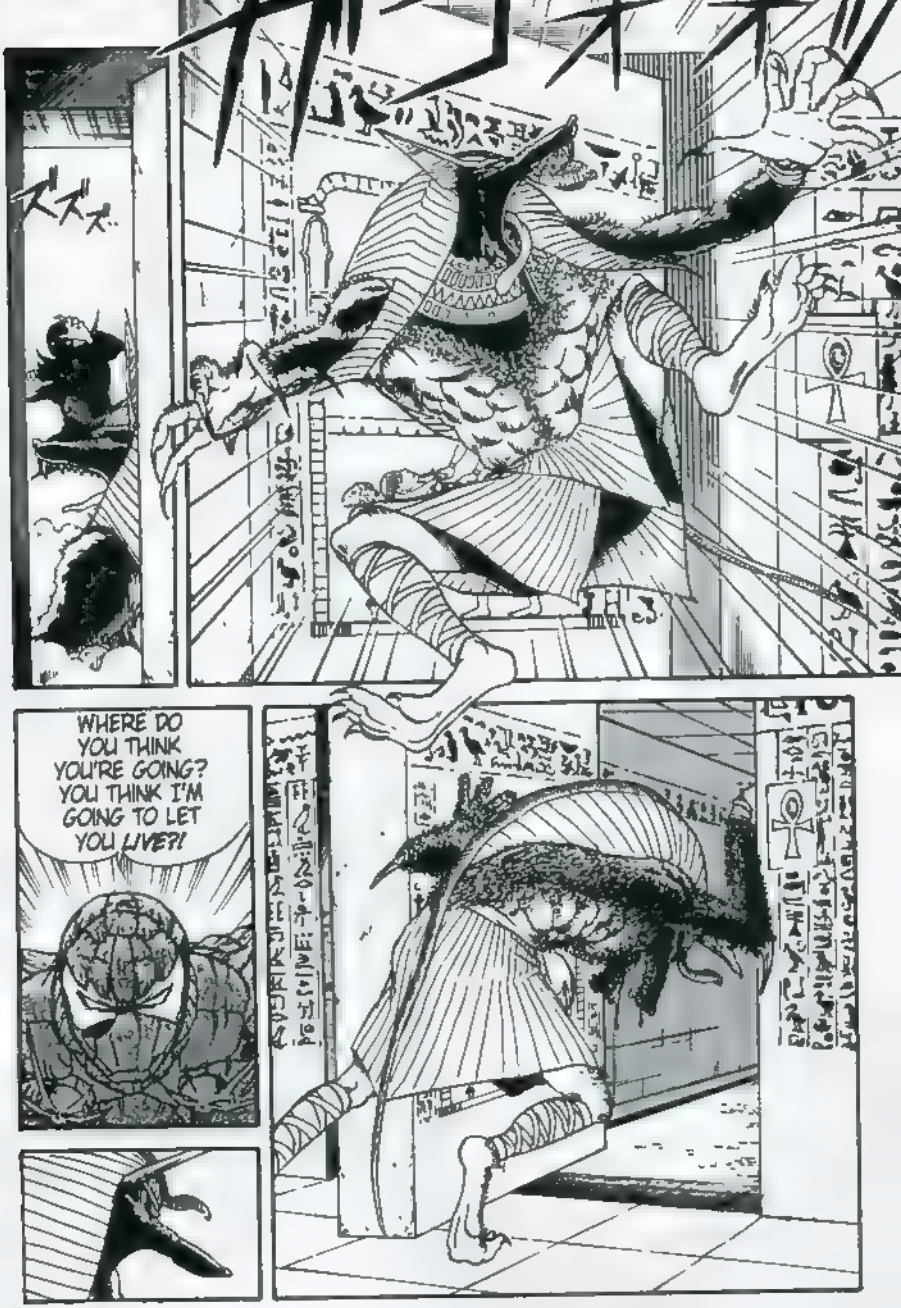
!!
WHA--
I DIED ONCE...
THAT'S IT!
...THAT TIME...
...IS NOW!
...TO KEEP MARIKO SAFE...
...AND I CAME BACK...

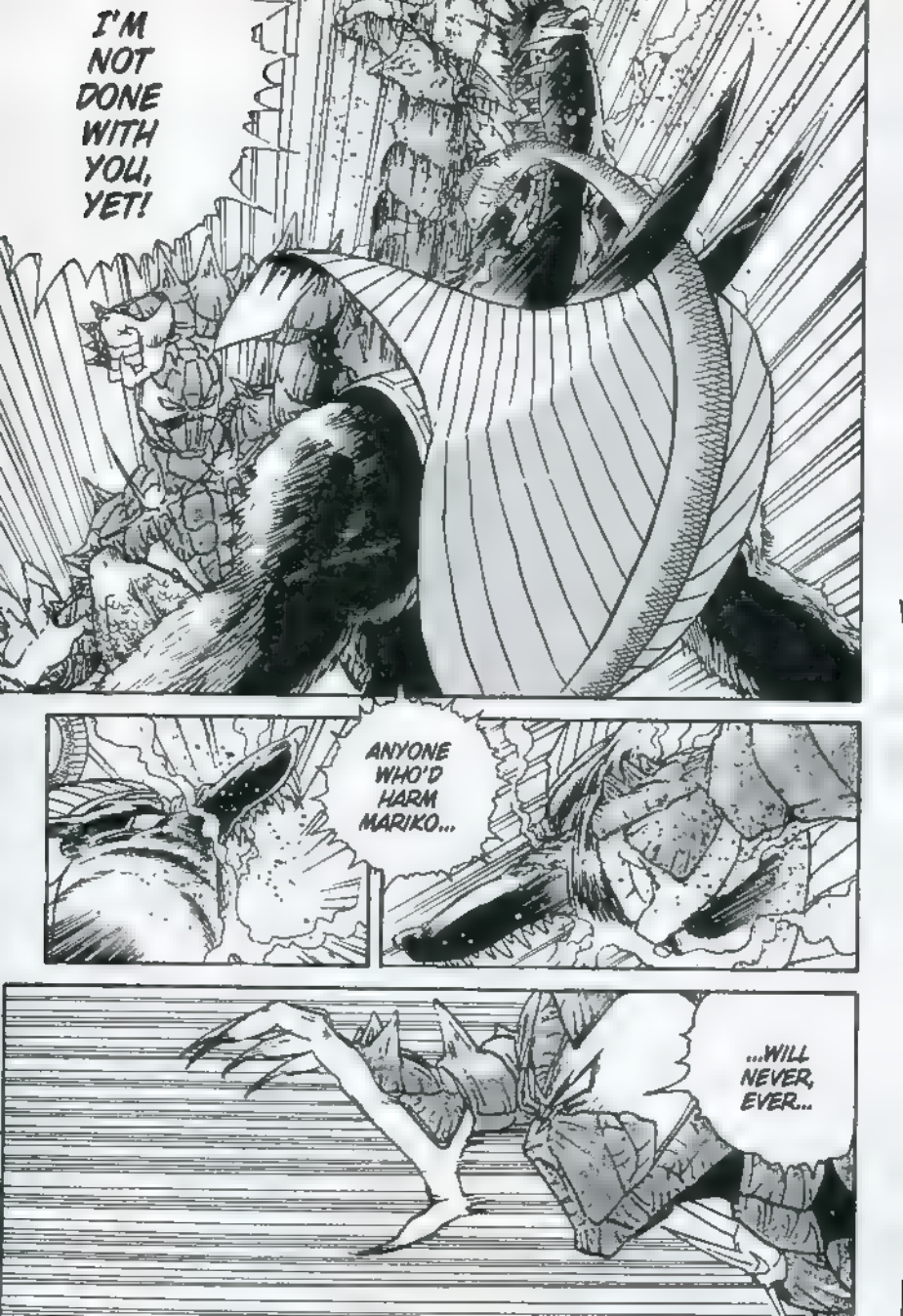
DO YOU THINK I'D FAIL A SECOND TIME, BY DYING AGAIN?!
...HE...
WHAT... IS...


OPEN WIIIDE!
GA--
GR--
GAAA
RRAAA
IS THAT EVEN POS-SIBLE?!
HE'S *REVERSING* THE FLOW OF THE PSYCHOPLASM FROM THE CREATURE BACK TO HIMSELF!

KYRAK!
AGAA--
GAWAA!
GNAA?


YOU SONNUVA BITCH!
TRIED TO KILL MY SISTER--
YOU WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THAT!


ズズズ
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU LIVE?!


I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU, YET!
ANYONE WHO'D HARM MARIKO...
...WILL NEVER, EVER...

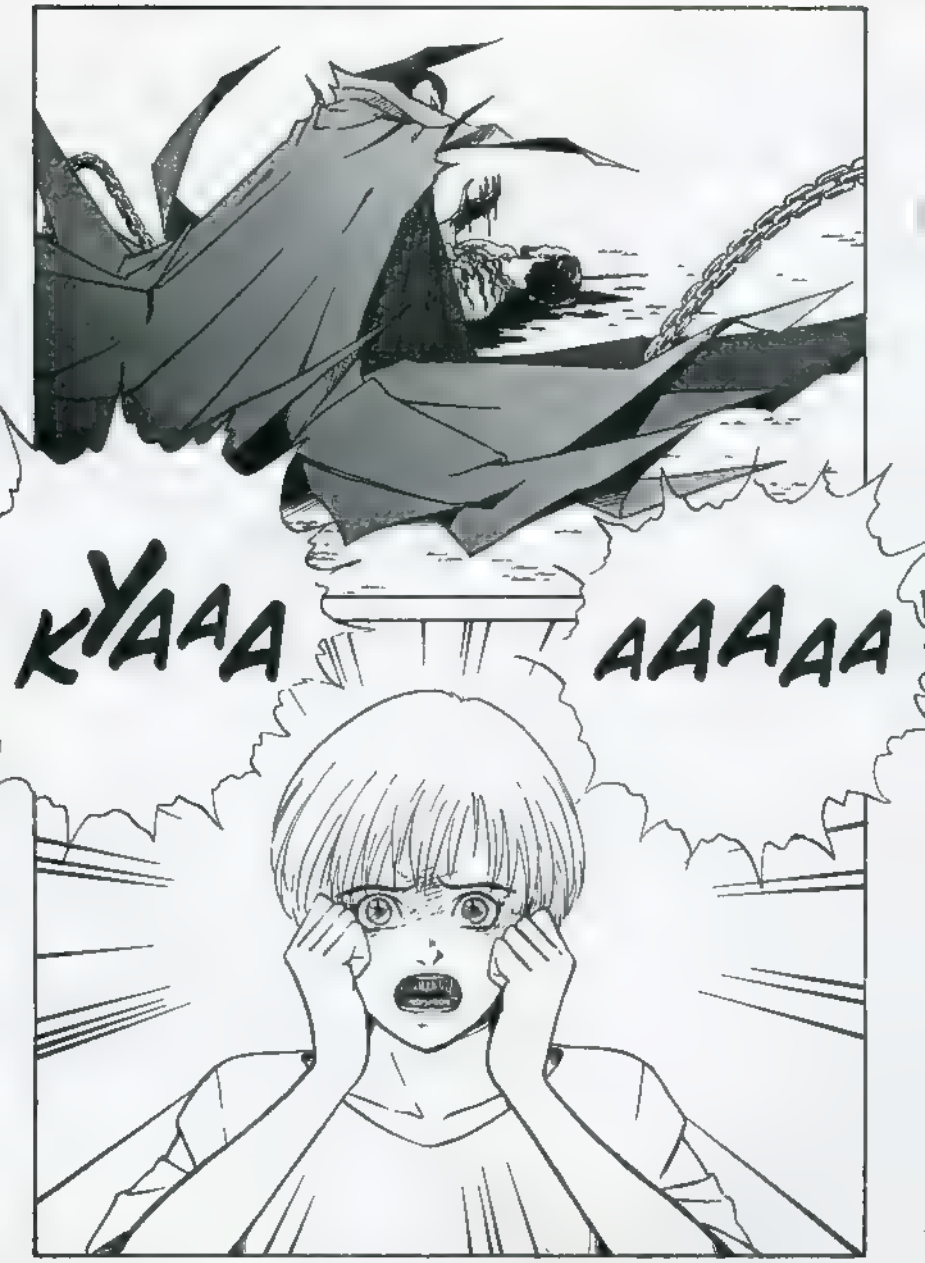
...LIVE
TO
TRY
AGAIN!

GRAOOOO

WHERE AM I?
HELLO?
H--
A...
OW.
HEAD.. HURTS...
UNHHH
...IS...
...THIS?
WHAT...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

FORGET THAT. I NEED TO KNOW--
BEE!
I MAY HAVE TO CHANGE MY OPINION OF YOU.
IMPRESSIVE!
WHAT'S GOING ON, HERE?
THEN THAT MEANS--
ONCE THE VESSEL HOLDING THAT PSYCHOPLASM IS BROKEN...OKAY, KILLED...THEN THE CREATURE REVERTS TO ITS ORIGINAL FORM.
I TOLD YOU. HE WASN'T A FULL-BLOODED DEMON. HE WAS A HUMAN HOPPED-UP ON PSYCHO-PLASM.

...OF A HUMAN BEING?!
I TOOK THE LIFE...
!!
THIS IS A BIT OF A COMPROM-ISING SIT-UATION.
MORE TO THE POINT, BE-HIND YOU...


KYAAA
AAAAA

EPISODE.4 THE SUFFERING —苦悩—

NICE LITTLE HIDEAWAY YOU PICKED-OUT FOR YOURSELVES, HERE. SUPER LOW-PROFILE AND DECENT ACCESS TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA BY BACK-STREETS.

THE INTERIOR DECOR IS QUAINT, AND YOU'VE GOT A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF EVERYTHING AROUND YOU FOR MILES. VERY NICE, INDEED!

AWWW, AND YOU EVEN MADE YOURSELF A LITTLE BED IN THE CORNER... HEY. YOU LISTENING TO ME?

RCILESS MURI

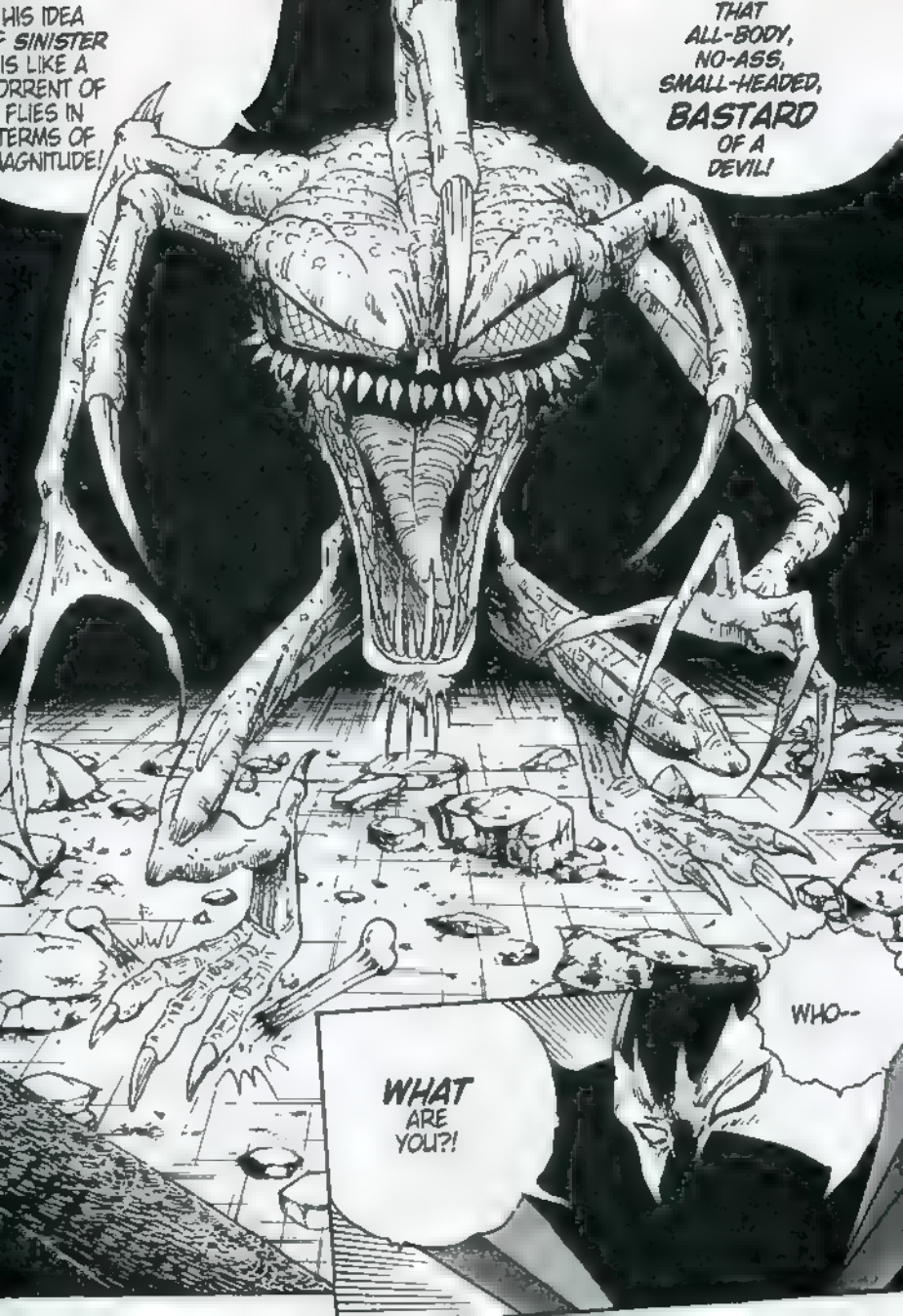
Police have no comment on the matter. Up and coming Hollywood newcomer, **Mariko Kurosawa**, was a witness at the scene. She stated for an interview she saw a **masked man** over the deceased...

World famous Egyptologist, Harold Carter, was found murdered in his secluded, Los Angeles mansion. He was found wearing ceremonial garb and masks suggesting cultists.

THE SISTER YOU NEARLY GOT KILLED TO SAVE NOW FINGERING YOU AS THE MURDERER!
HOW IRONIC IS THAT?
HA! HA! HA! HA!
SHUT-UP!

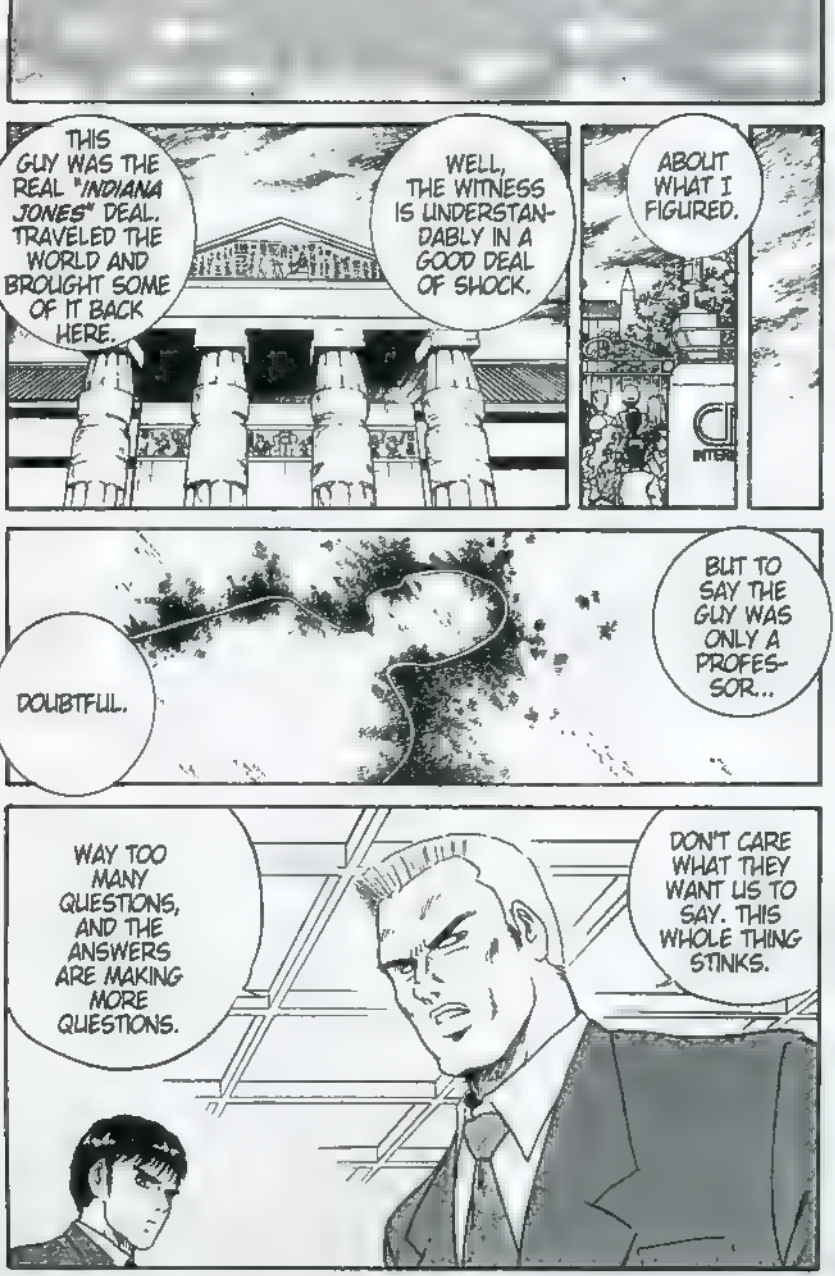
AND KILLING ME WOULD ACCOMPLISH WHAT, EXACTLY?
LIM-HMM.
...FROM YOUR MURDER TO "ANUBIS," HE'S THOUGHT OF IT ALL.
BUT I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO HIM...
DON'T PUSH IT.
HE'S BEEN CREATING ALL THESE "SITUATIONS"? PLAYING ME LIKE SOME KIND OF SOCK PUPPET?!
YOU MEAN, MALEBOLGIA!
"HE?"

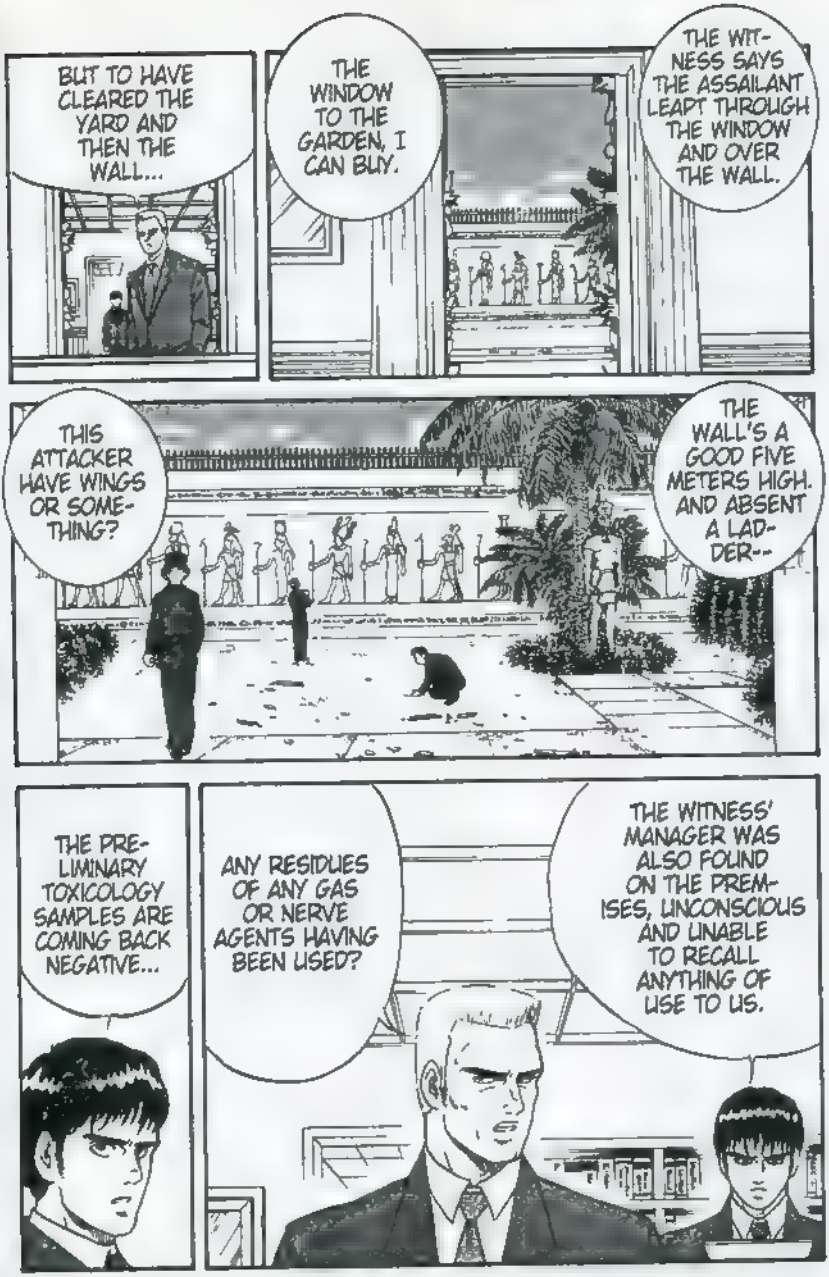
HE RES-URRECTS ME ONLY TO TAUNT ME IN A PRIVATE HELL ON EARTH? IT MAKES NO SENSE!
WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF HIS DOING ALL THIS TO ME?!
BEE!
AFTER ALL, I'M ONLY YOUR SUB-STITUTE TEACHER.
NOW, NOW. I CAN'T GO ON TELLING YOU EVERY-THING.
HIS REAC-TIONS SHOULD BE AM-USING.
MAYBE I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
IT DON'T BUG ME NONE.
TELL HIM WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW!


HIS IDEA
F SINISTER
IS LIKE A
ORRENT OF
FLIES IN
TERMS OF
AGNITUDE!
THAT ALL-BODY, NO-ASS, SMALL-HEADED, BASTARD OF A DEVIL!
WHO--
WHAT ARE YOU?!

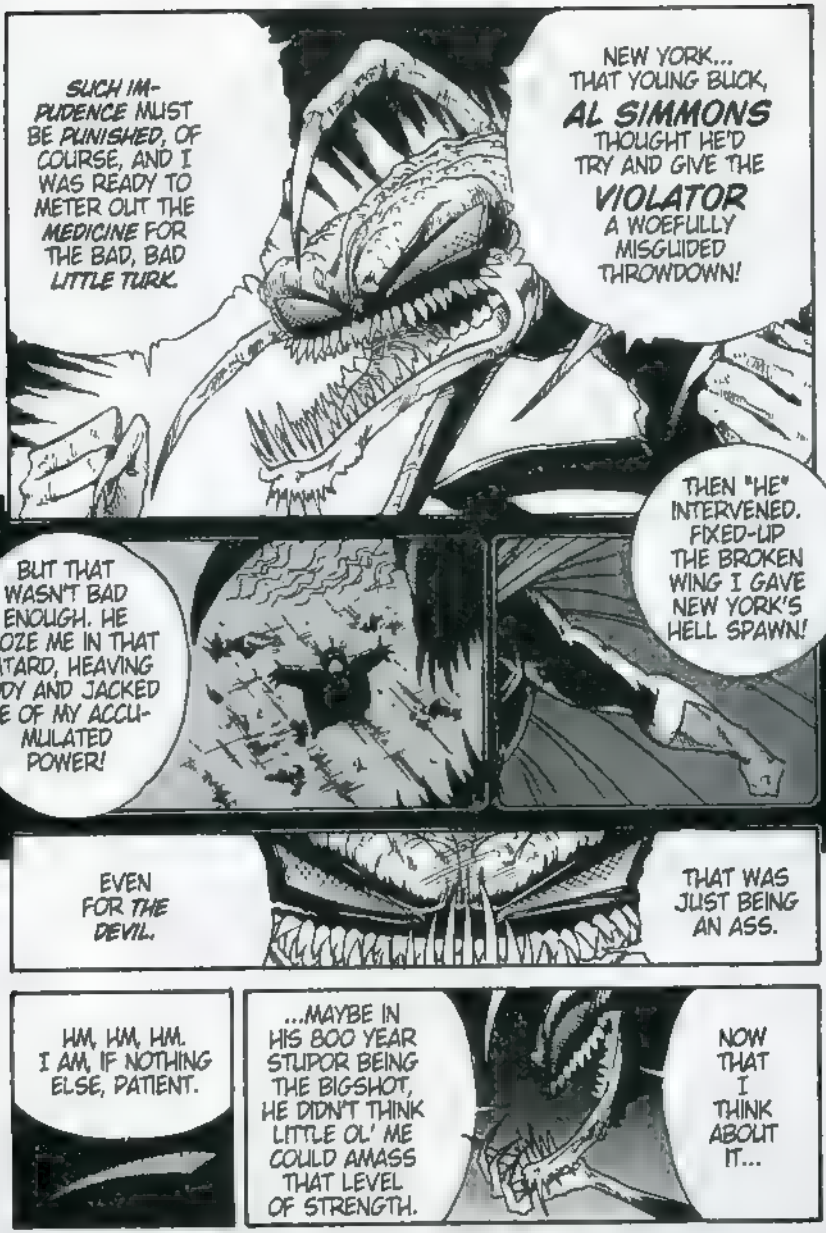
VIOLATOR?
IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?!
VIOLATOR?
THAT'D MEAN YOU'RE--
TRUE FORM?
PROBABLY DON'T RECOGNIZE ME IN MY TRUE FORM, DO YOU?
YOU TWIP.
BUT... NOT QUITE THE CLOWN FROM BEFORE...
THE CLOWN!
SO...

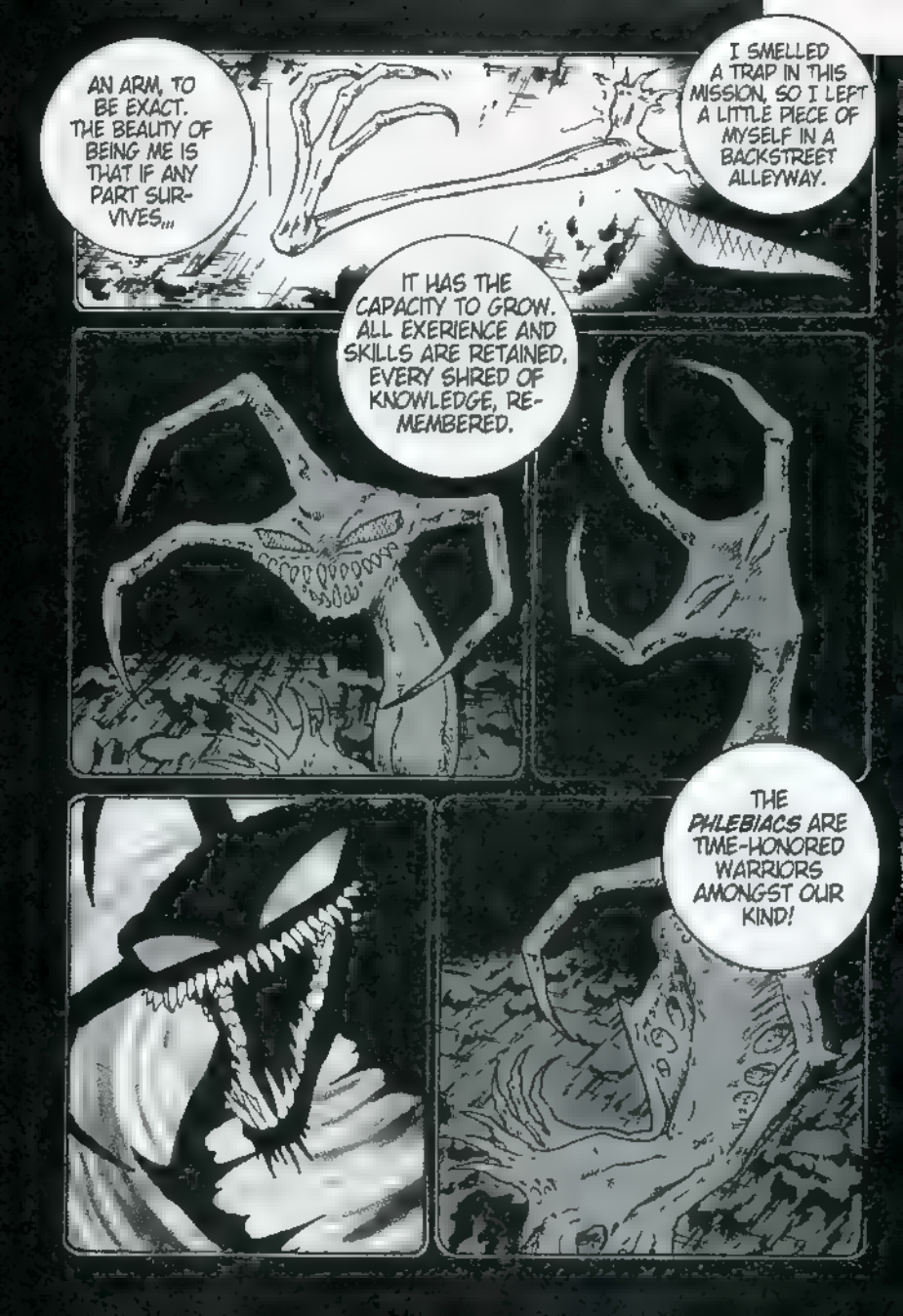
HE...LOOKS SMALLER THAN I REMEMBER.
SO WHAT HAPPENED?
TRAPS ME IN THIS INFERNAL, FAT, OILY, DISGUSTING FORM FOR ALL THESE YEARS AFTER ALL THE FAITHFUL SERVICE I--
NOTHING HAPPENED! THAT VILE, WICKED, MEAN-SPIRITED S.O.B. IS JUST...
ARGH!
?
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE! I'VE BEEN WRONGED!
"SPAT?!?!"
YOU SH!T-SUCKIN' FLY QUEEN--
YOU HAVE A SPAT WITH MALEBOLGIA OR SOMETHING?

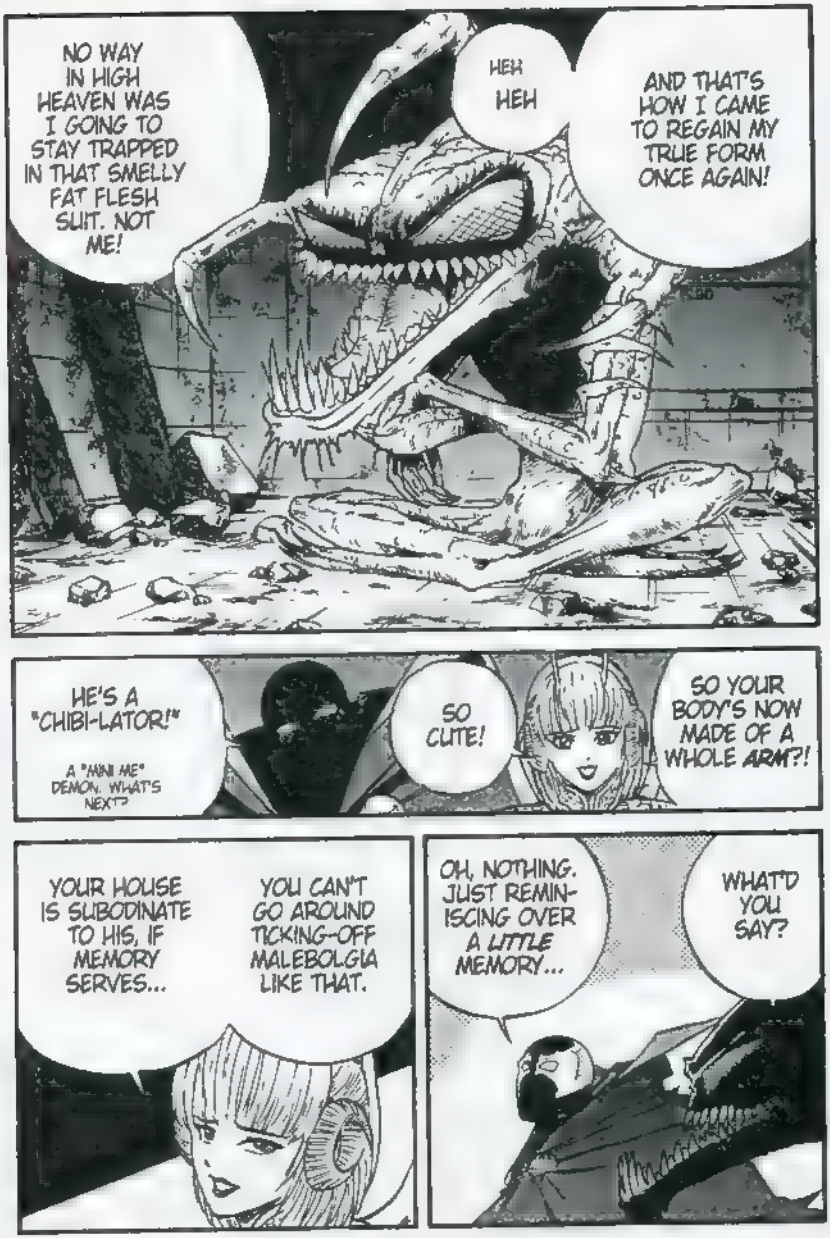

THIS GUY WAS THE REAL "INDIANA JONES" DEAL. TRAVELED THE WORLD AND BROUGHT SOME OF IT BACK HERE.
WELL, THE WITNESS IS UNDERSTANDABLY IN A GOOD DEAL OF SHOCK.
ABOUT WHAT I FIGURED.
DOUBTFUL.
BUT TO SAY THE GUY WAS ONLY A PROFESSOR..
WAY TOO MANY QUESTIONS, AND THE ANSWERS ARE MAKING MORE QUESTIONS.
DON'T CARE WHAT THEY WANT US TO SAY. THIS WHOLE THING STINKS.

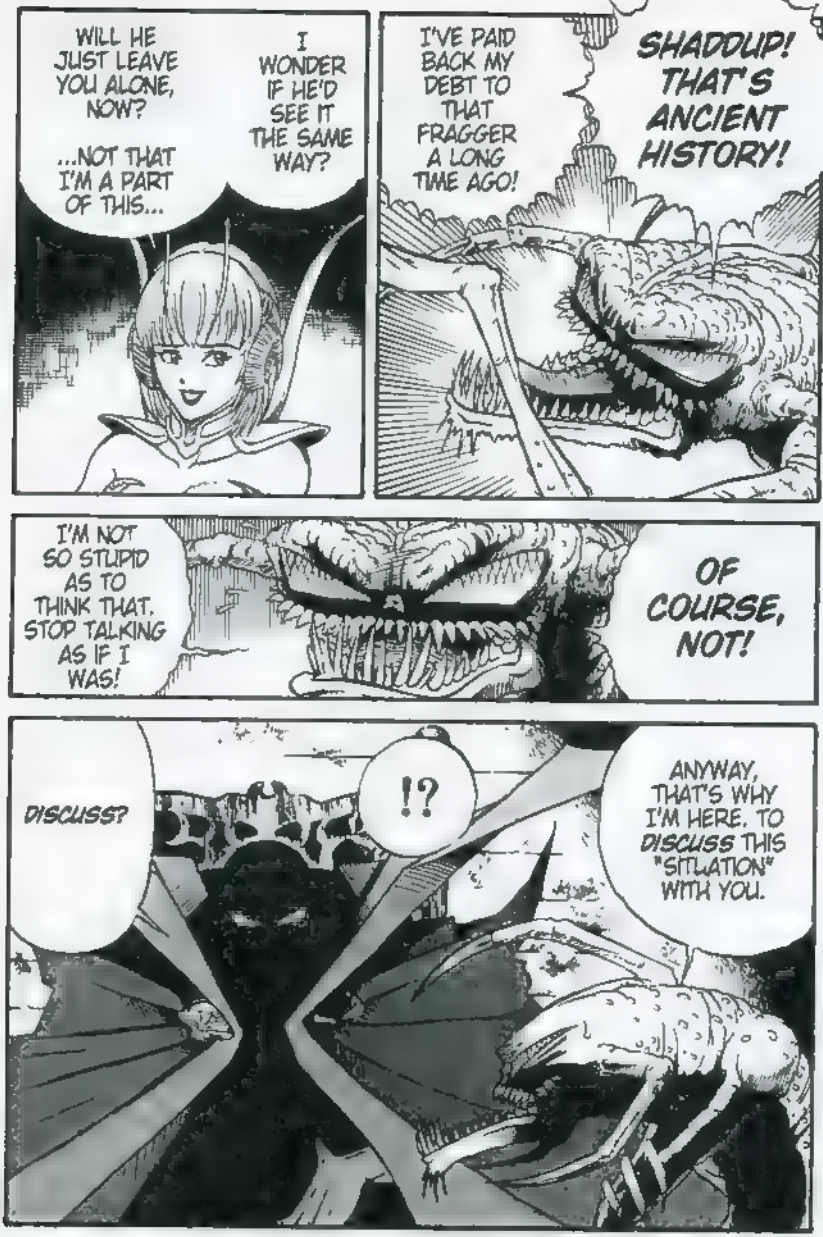

BUT TO HAVE CLEARED THE YARD AND THEN THE WALL...
THE WINDOW TO THE GARDEN, I CAN BUY.
THE WITNESS SAYS THE ASSAILANT LEAPT THROUGH THE WINDOW AND OVER THE WALL.
THIS ATTACKER HAVE WINGS OR SOMETHING?
THE WALL'S A GOOD FIVE METERS HIGH. AND ABSENT A LADDER--
THE PRELIMINARY TOXICOLOGY SAMPLES ARE COMING BACK NEGATIVE...
ANY RESIDUES OF ANY GAS OR NERVE AGENTS HAVING BEEN USED?
THE WITNESS' MANAGER WAS ALSO FOUND ON THE PREMISES, UNCONSCIOUS AND UNABLE TO RECALL ANYTHING OF USE TO US.

...IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE SOMETHING WASN'T PUMPED INTO THE AIR... OR AT THE VERY LEAST, IN THEIR DRINKS.
...BUT GIVEN THE PERP DESCRIPTION GIVEN TO OUR SKETCH ARTIST...
A LITANY OF MOB BOSSES BEING TERRORIZED, OR WORSE, BY A "MASKED MAN".
REAMS OF REPORTS, ALL OUT OF NEW YORK.
INSPECTOR! WE JUST GOT A HIT ON THE... "SKETCH."
THAT GOES WITH-OUT SAY.
"BLACK COSTUME, WHITE FACE MARKS, RED HIGHLIGHTS..." SOUNDS LIKE OUR GUY, DOESN'T IT?
YOU'RE KID-DING!
WHAT KIND OF FREAKSHOW DID WE JUST STUMBLE INTO?
BUT IN NEW YORK?!
NEW YORK!
THAT'S RIGHT!

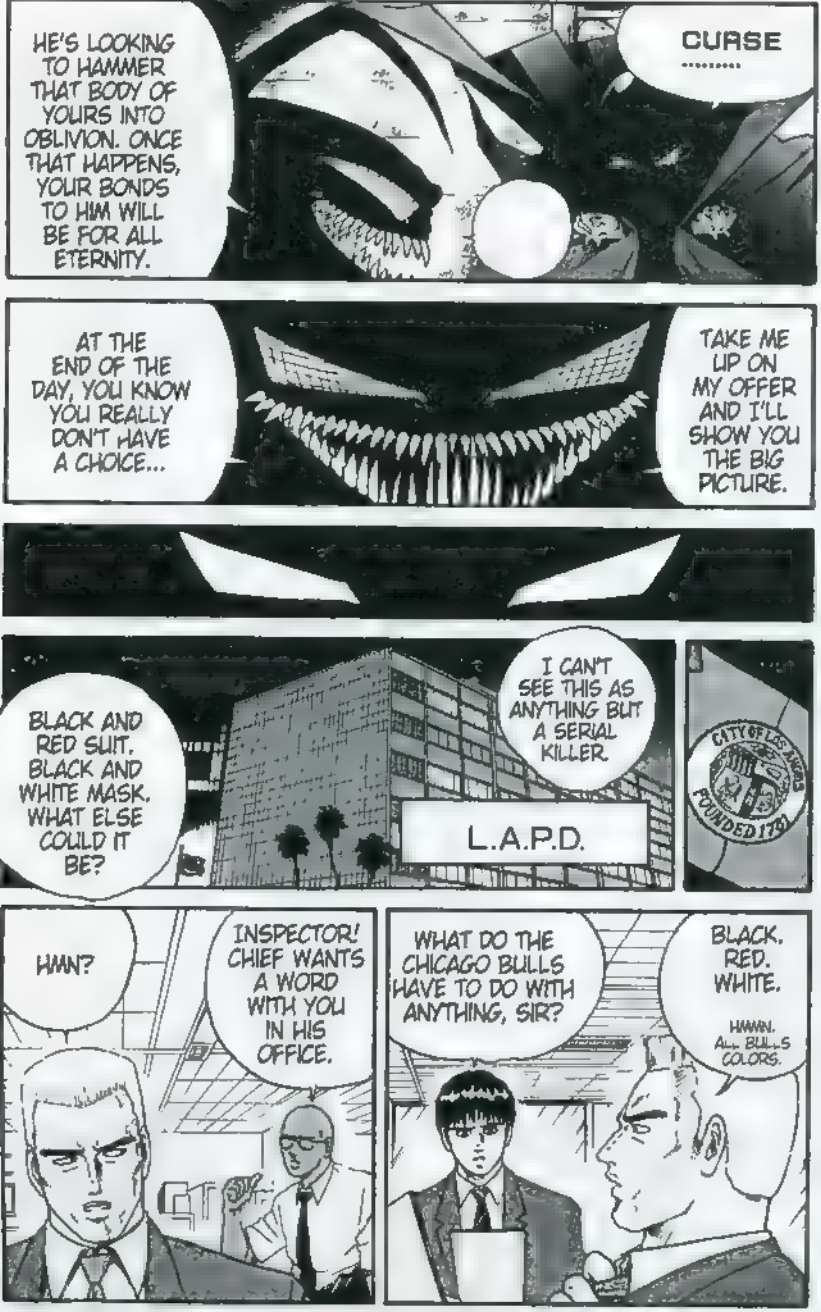

SUCH IMPUDENCE MUST BE PUNISHED, OF COURSE, AND I WAS READY TO METER OUT THE MEDICINE FOR THE BAD, BAD LITTLE TURK.
NEW YORK... THAT YOUNG BUCK, AL SIMMONS THOUGHT HE'D TRY AND GIVE THE VIOLATOR A WOEFULLY MISGUIDED THROWDOWN!
BUT THAT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH. HE FROZE ME IN THAT FATARD, HEAVING BODY AND JACKED ME OF MY ACCUMULATED POWER!
THEN "HE" INTERVENED. FIXED-UP THE BROKEN WING I GAVE NEW YORK'S HELL SPAWN!
EVEN FOR THE DEVIL.
THAT WAS JUST BEING AN ASS.
HM, HM, HM. I AM, IF NOTHING ELSE, PATIENT.
...MAYBE IN HIS 800 YEAR STUPOR BEING THE BIGSHOT, HE DIDN'T THINK LITTLE OL' ME COULD AMASS THAT LEVEL OF STRENGTH.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...


AN ARM, TO BE EXACT. THE BEAUTY OF BEING ME IS THAT IF ANY PART SURVIVES...
I SMELLED A TRAP IN THIS MISSION, SO I LEFT A LITTLE PIECE OF MYSELF IN A BACKSTREET ALLEYWAY.
IT HAS THE CAPACITY TO GROW. ALL EXERIENCE AND SKILLS ARE RETAINED, EVERY SHRED OF KNOWLEDGE, REMEMBERED.
THE *PHLEBIACS* ARE TIME-HONORED WARRIORS AMONGST OUR KIND!

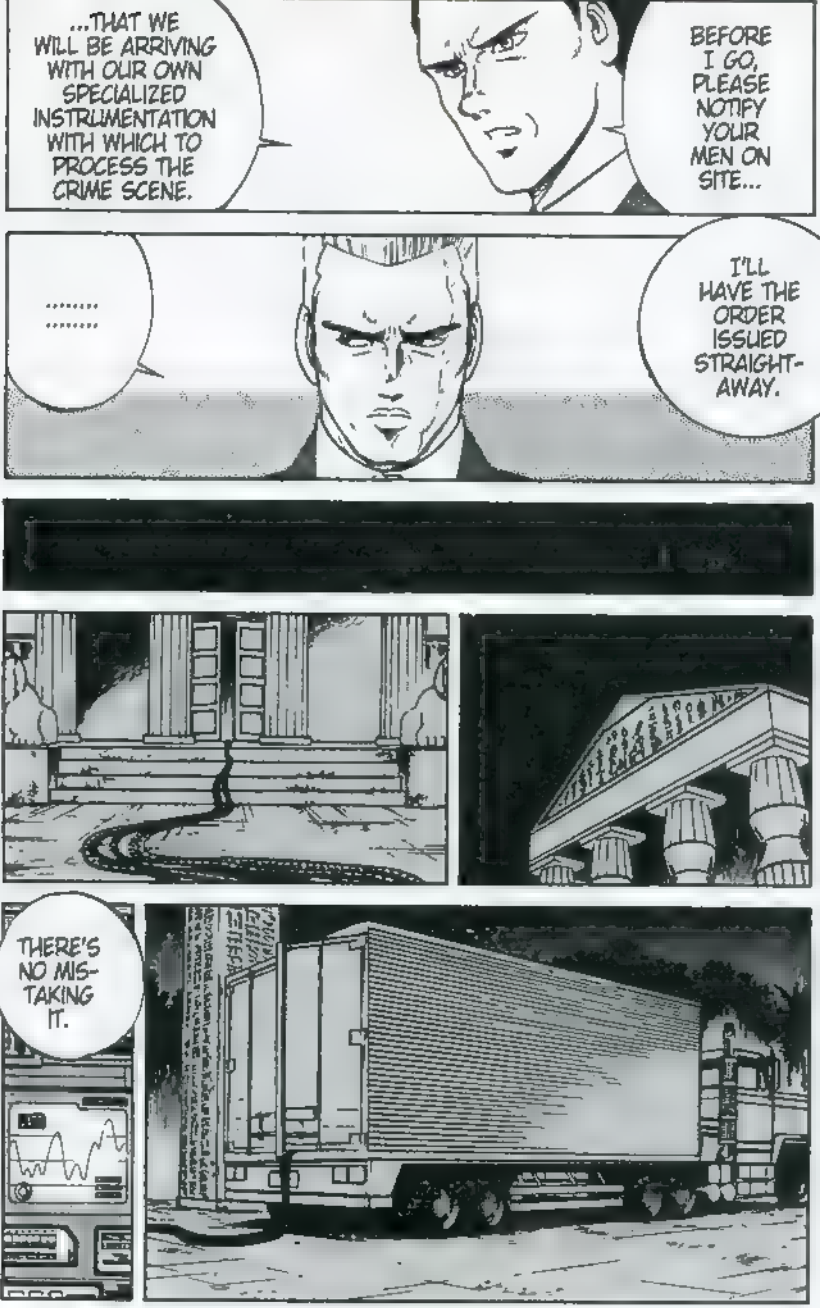

NO WAY IN HIGH HEAVEN WAS I GOING TO STAY TRAPPED IN THAT SMELLY FAT FLESH SUIT. NOT ME!
HEH HEH
AND THAT'S HOW I CAME TO REGAIN MY TRUE FORM ONCE AGAIN!
HE'S A "CHIBI-LATOR!"
A "MINI ME" DEMON. WHAT'S NEXT?
SO CUTE!
SO YOUR BODY'S NOW MADE OF A WHOLE ARM?!
YOUR HOUSE IS SUBODINATE TO HIS, IF MEMORY SERVES...
YOU CAN'T GO AROUND TICKING-OFF MALEBOLGIA LIKE THAT.
OH, NOTHING. JUST REMINISCING OVER A LITTLE MEMORY...
WHAT'D YOU SAY?

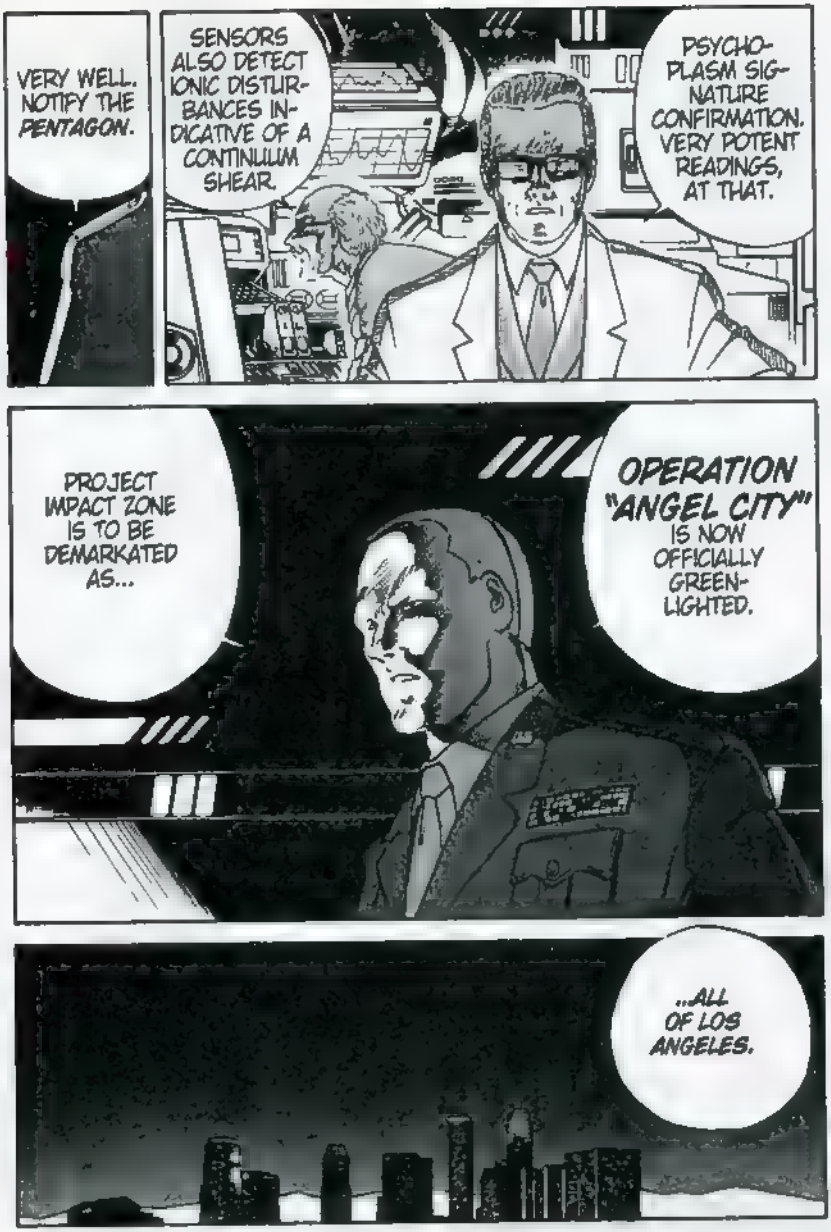

WILL HE JUST LEAVE YOU ALONE, NOW?
...NOT THAT I'M A PART OF THIS...
I WONDER IF HE'D SEE IT THE SAME WAY?
I'VE PAID BACK MY DEBT TO THAT FRAGGER A LONG TIME AGO!
SHADDUP! THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY!
I'M NOT SO STUPID AS TO THINK THAT. STOP TALKING AS IF I WAS!
OF COURSE, NOT!
DISCUSS?
!?
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. TO DISCUSS THIS "SITUATION" WITH YOU.

YOU WANT ME TO BE YOUR *BODYGUARD* UNTIL YOU CAN REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH?! AFTER YOU ALMOST LET ME GET KILLED... AGAIN?!
A BODYGUARD.
MOREOVER, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET INTO THAT DEMON-ASS' HEAD. LEARN WHAT MAKES HIM TICK. GIVE YOU WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO GET BY HIM... ...AND ULTIMATELY GET WHAT YOU WANT.
AH, BUT IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR PUGILISTIC LEANINGS, I'LL BE YOUR PERSONAL COACH. I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT BEING A HELL SPAWN!
YOU SHARE WHAT'S KNOWN AS MALEBOLGIA'S ***CURSE***.
MALEBOLGIA HAS SPECIAL PLANS FOR YOU. BIG PLANS. HE DIDN'T JUST TAKE YOUR BODY AND HOLD YOUR SOUL HOSTAGE...
YOU LISTENING, BOY? YOUR SITUATION IS UNIQUE, EVEN AMONG THE UNDEAD.


HE'S LOOKING TO HAMMER THAT BODY OF YOURS INTO OBLIVION. ONCE THAT HAPPENS, YOUR BONDS TO HIM WILL BE FOR ALL ETERNITY.
CURSE
.....
AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU KNOW YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A CHOICE...
TAKE ME UP ON MY OFFER AND I'LL SHOW YOU THE BIG PICTURE.
BLACK AND RED SUIT. BLACK AND WHITE MASK. WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
I CAN'T SEE THIS AS ANYTHING BUT A SERIAL KILLER.
L.A.P.D.
CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOUNDED 1781
HMN?
INSPECTOR! CHIEF WANTS A WORD WITH YOU IN HIS OFFICE.
WHAT DO THE CHICAGO BULLS HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING, SIR?
BLACK. RED. WHITE.
HMMM. ALL BULLS COLORS.

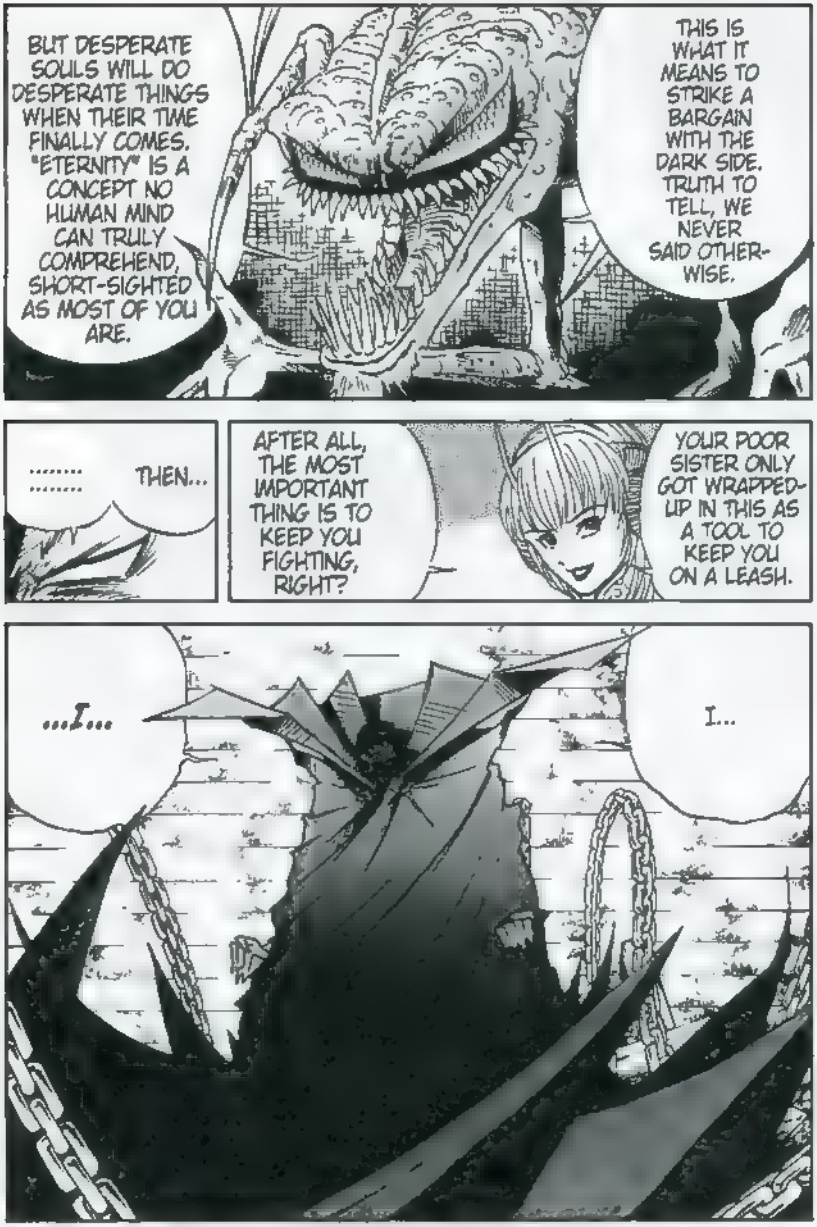
WHAT?
WE APPRECIATE YOUR WORK ON THIS MATTER UP TO NOW. BUT AS I'VE EXPLAINED TO YOUR CHIEF, THIS INVESTIGATION IS NOW IN OUR CARE.
THIS M.O. BEARS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO A CASE WE'VE BEEN MONITORING FOR SOME TIME.
C.I.A.?
AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION OF THE MATTER HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED.
CHIEF!
CONSIDER IT A BLESSING. WE'VE GOT TOO MUCH TO DO IN THIS TOWN, AS IT IS. C.I.A. WANTS TO TAKE THIS CASE, WE LET THEM TAKE THE CASE.
BUT--

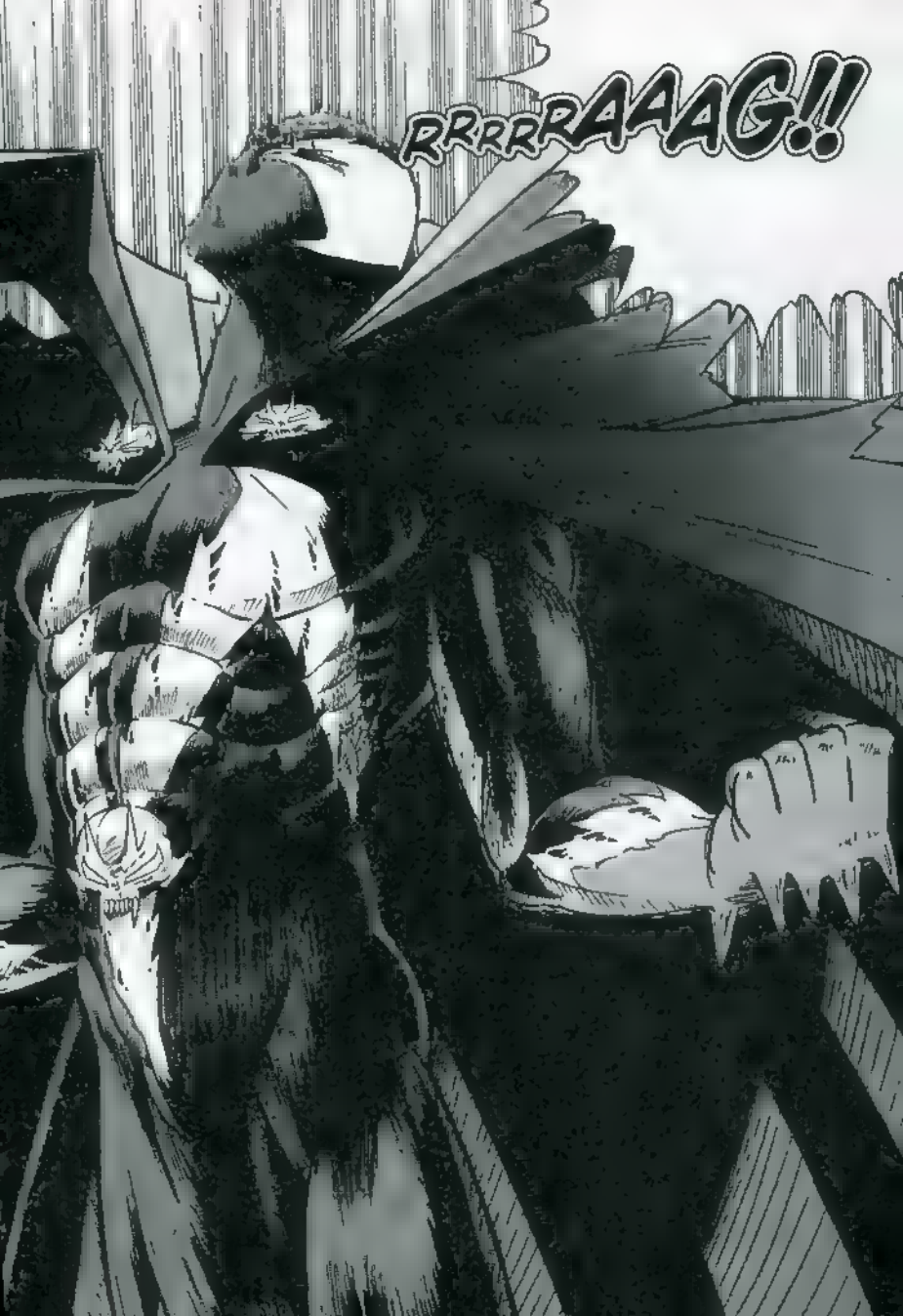

...THAT WE WILL BE ARRIVING WITH OUR OWN SPECIALIZED INSTRUMENTATION WITH WHICH TO PROCESS THE CRIME SCENE.
BEFORE I GO, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR MEN ON SITE...
.....
.....
I'LL HAVE THE ORDER ISSUED STRAIGHT-AWAY.
THERE'S NO MIS-TAKING IT.

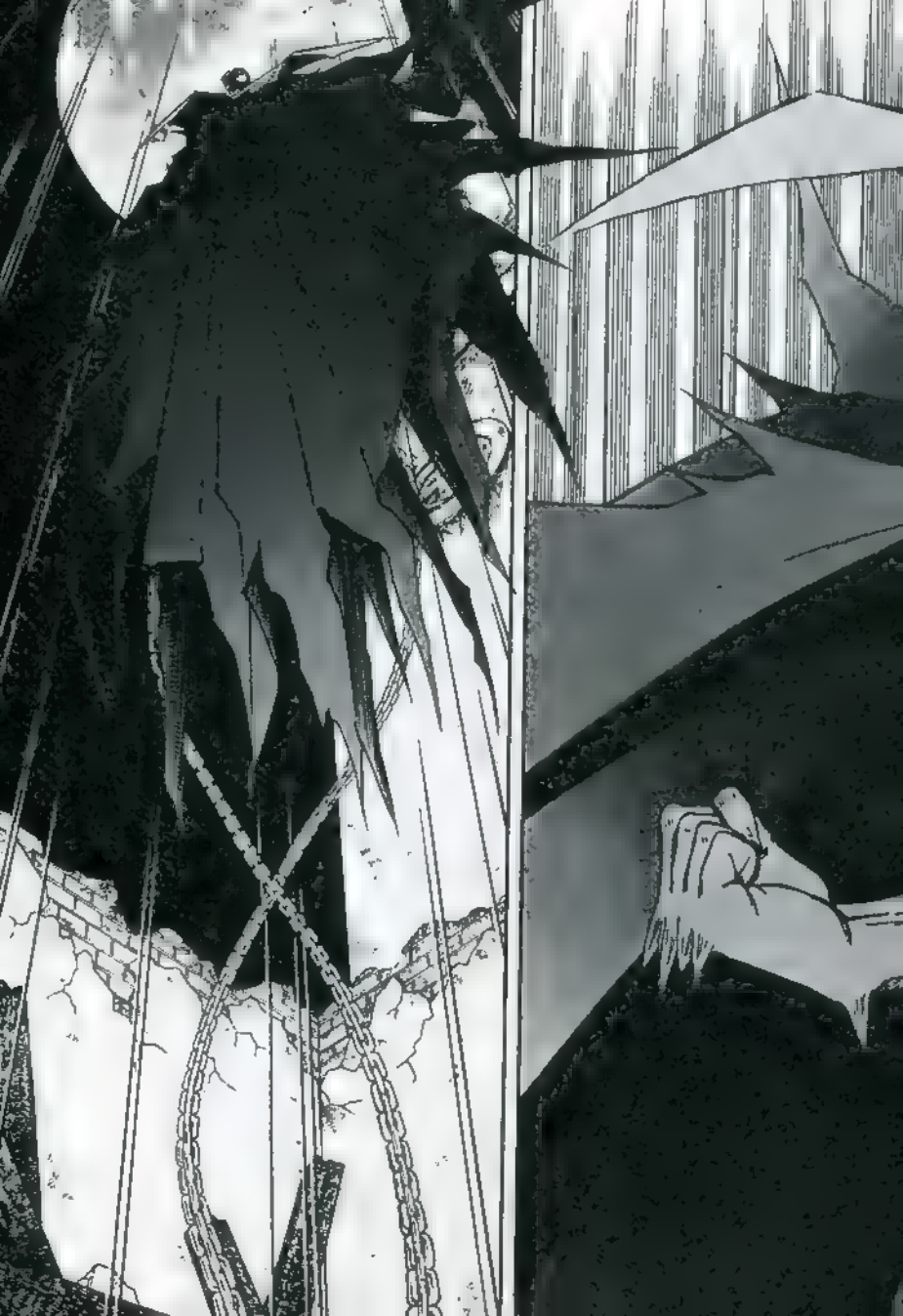

VERY WELL. NOTIFY THE PENTAGON.
SENSORS ALSO DETECT IONIC DISTURBANCES INDICATIVE OF A CONTINUUM SHEAR.
PSYCHOPLASM SIGNATURE CONFIRMATION. VERY POTENT READINGS, AT THAT.
PROJECT IMPACT ZONE IS TO BE DEMARKATED AS...
OPERATION "ANGEL CITY" IS NOW OFFICIALLY GREENLIGHTED.
..ALL OF LOS ANGELES.

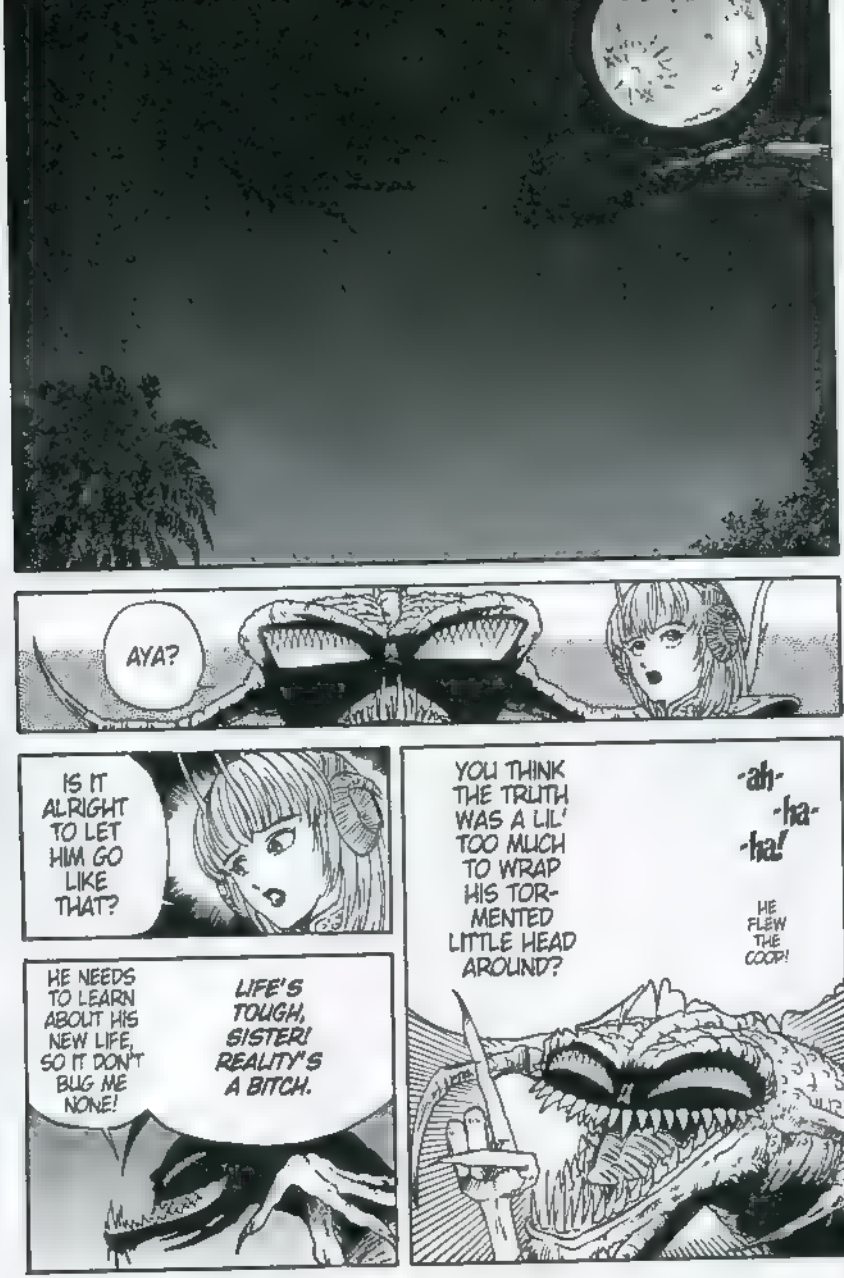
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME...
WHAT KIND OF--
THAT ANUBIS...
...THE FIRST DEMON...
...THAT NONE OF THEM WOULD BE AFTER HER?!
...IF I HADN'T RETURNED, MARIKO WOULDN'T HAVE--

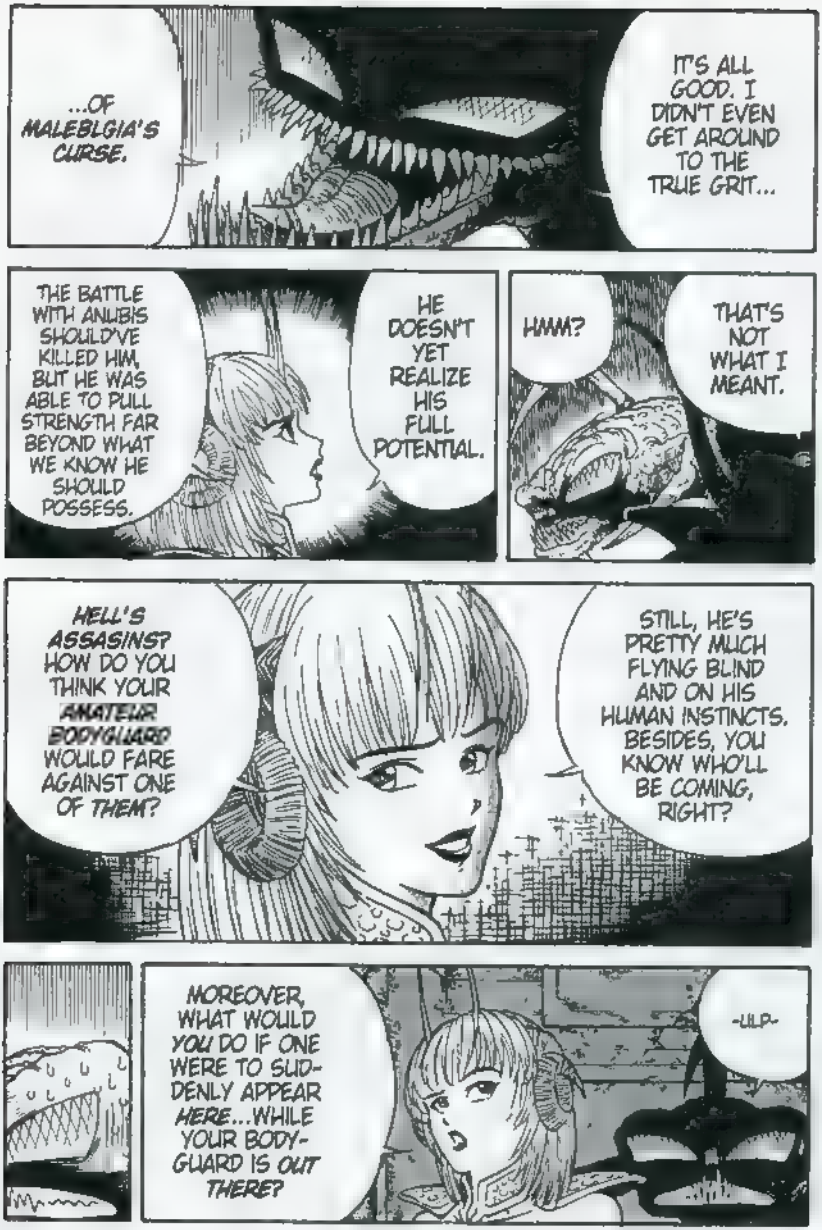
"YOU GET WHAT YOU ASKED FOR," ONLY NOT IN THE WAY YOU WANTED THE GETTIN'. IT'S THE ETERNAL CYCLE. THE WAY IT'S ALWAYS BEEN.
SUUUCH IS THE NATURE OF THINGS WHEN MAKING DEALS WITH THE DEVIL. DIDN'T GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, DID YOU?
YOU'LL BE REBORN ANEW, AGAIN AND AGAIN, EACH TIME LOSING JUST A BIT MORE OF WHAT YOU ONCE WERE.
AND WHEN THE LAST OF YOUR JUICE IS SPENT, IT'S RIGHT BACK TO HIS HIGH-NESS' PIT FOR A RECHARGE.
HE'LL FORCE YOU INTO FIGHTS. TO GET YOU TO USE YOUR *POWER* UNTIL YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A HUSK.
EXPECT MALEBOLGIA TO HAVE A HEAVIER HAND IN MATTERS FROM NOW ON.
BUT BY THEN, YOU'LL BE LITTLE MORE THAN A DRONE IN HIS ARMY!
YOUR SKILLS AS A FIGHTER WILL AUGMENT A MILLIONFOLD FOR THE WAR FOR WHICH YOU WERE CREATED.


BUT DESPERATE SOULS WILL DO DESPERATE THINGS WHEN THEIR TIME FINALLY COMES. "ETERNITY" IS A CONCEPT NO HUMAN MIND CAN TRULY COMPREHEND, SHORT-SIGHTED AS MOST OF YOU ARE.
THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH THE DARK SIDE. TRUTH TO TELL, WE NEVER SAID OTHER-WISE.
.....
.....
THEN...
AFTER ALL, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP YOU FIGHTING, RIGHT?
YOUR POOR SISTER ONLY GOT WRAPPED-UP IN THIS AS A TOOL TO KEEP YOU ON A LEASH.
...I...
I...


RRRRAAAG!!



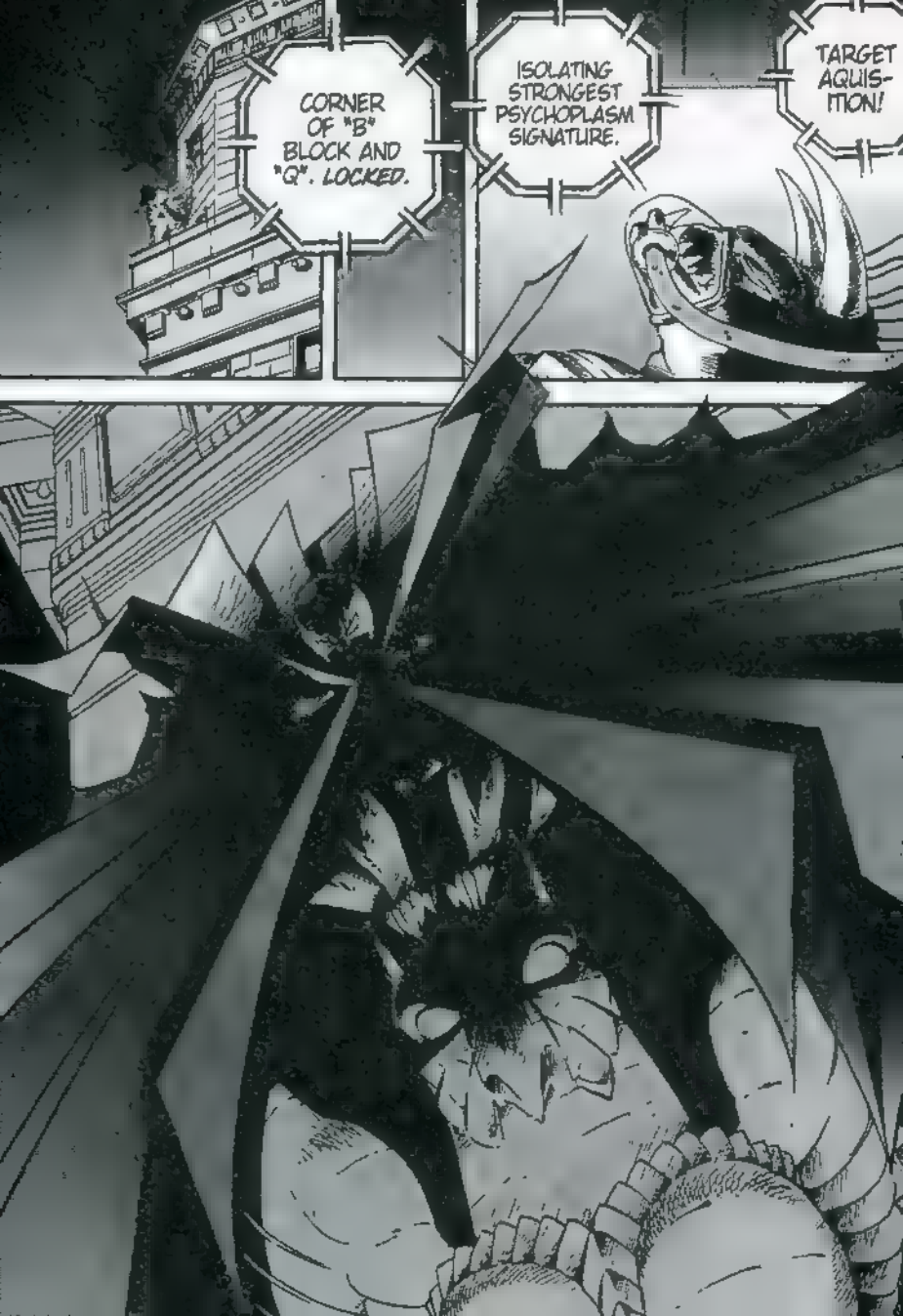

AYA?
IS IT ALRIGHT TO LET HIM GO LIKE THAT?
HE NEEDS TO LEARN ABOUT HIS NEW LIFE, SO IT DON'T BUG ME NONE!
LIFE'S TOUGH, SISTER! REALITY'S A BITCH.
YOU THINK THE TRUTH WAS A LIL' TOO MUCH TO WRAP HIS TORMENTED LITTLE HEAD AROUND?
-ah-
-ha-
-ha!
HE FLEW THE COOP!

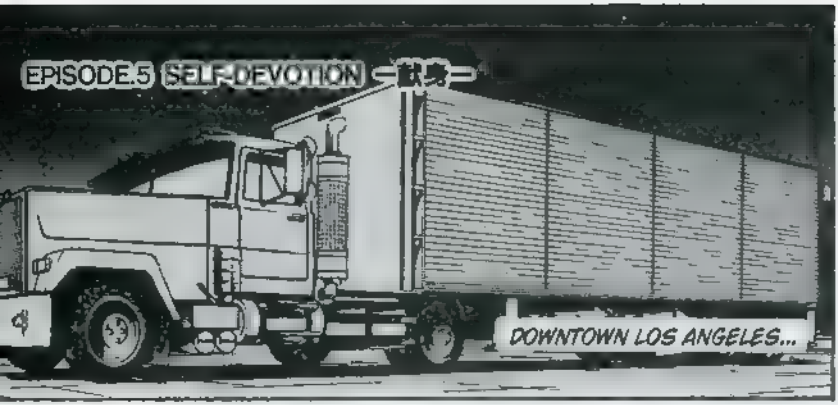

...OF MALEBLGIA'S CURSE.
IT'S ALL GOOD. I DIDN'T EVEN GET AROUND TO THE TRUE GRIT...
THE BATTLE WITH ANUBIS SHOULD'VE KILLED HIM, BUT HE WAS ABLE TO PULL STRENGTH FAR BEYOND WHAT WE KNOW HE SHOULD POSSESS.
HE DOESN'T YET REALIZE HIS FULL POTENTIAL.
HMM?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
HELL'S ASSASINS? HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR AMATEUR BODYGUARD WOULD FARE AGAINST ONE OF THEM?
STILL, HE'S PRETTY MUCH FLYING BLIND AND ON HIS HUMAN INSTINCTS. BESIDES, YOU KNOW WHO'LL BE COMING, RIGHT?
MOREOVER, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF ONE WERE TO SUDDENLY APPEAR HERE...WHILE YOUR BODYGUARD IS OUT THERE?
-ULP-

HEEERE, CHICKY-CHICKY! WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO?!?!

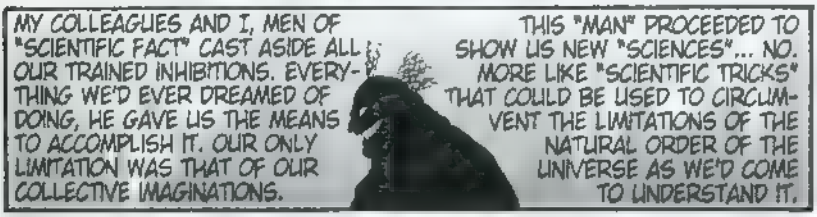
IT'S QUITE AMAZING, EVEN BY TODAY'S STANDARDS.
A SHORT 10 YEARS AGO, I'D NEVER BELIEVE WE'D COME SO FAR.
STILL...
"SCIENCE" DOESN'T QUITE COVER THE WORK WE'RE A PART OF. IT'S A NEW "CRAFT," REALLY. A MERGING OF MANY DISCIPLINES, AND SOME NEW ONES BESIDES!
A MISNOMER.
THAT IN THIS AGE OF SCIENCE, WE COULD CREATE SUCH A...THING.
THAT'S WHY WE PROCEED IN *CALCULATED STEPS.*
...IT BEGS TO ASK IF WE'RE ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR THE *UNTHINK*-ABLE.
FOR HUMANS TO BE MEDDLING IN THE MATTERS OF NATURE...

HE IS THE *FIRST* OF HIS KIND, AFTER ALL.
THE FIRST ***PSYCHOPLASM-IMBUED SOLDIER.*** OUR CROWN JEWEL IN AN ALREADY IMPRESSIVE ARMORY. SHALL WE PROCEED?


CORNER OF "B" BLOCK AND "Q". LOCKED.
ISOLATING STRONGEST PSYCHOPLASM SIGNATURE.
TARGET AQUISITION!


EPISODE.5 SELF-DEVOTION -試身-
DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES...

OF COURSE, THIS CAUSED QUITE THE PANIC.
AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, AN "OUTWORLDER" MADE HIMSELF KNOWN. A MAN WHO WAS, AT THE TIME, IN THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE PENTAGON HIERARCHY.

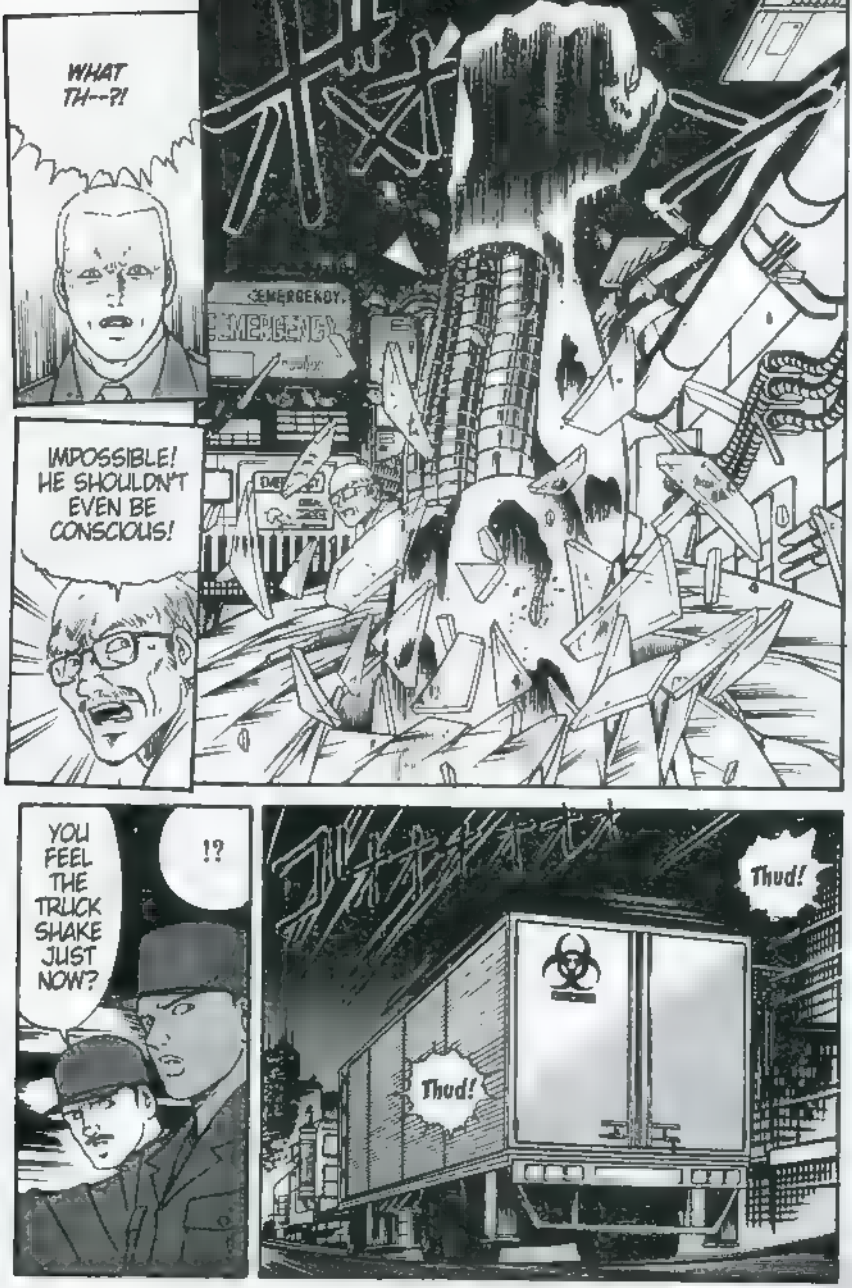

MY COLLEAGUES AND I, MEN OF "SCIENTIFIC FACT" CAST ASIDE ALL OUR TRAINED INHIBITIONS. EVERYTHING WE'D EVER DREAMED OF DOING, HE GAVE US THE MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH IT. OUR ONLY LIMITATION WAS THAT OF OUR COLLECTIVE IMAGINATIONS.
THIS "MAN" PROCEEDED TO SHOW US NEW "SCIENCES"... NO. MORE LIKE "SCIENTIFIC TRICKS" THAT COULD BE USED TO CIRCUMVENT THE LIMITATIONS OF THE NATURAL ORDER OF THE UNIVERSE AS WE'D COME TO UNDERSTAND IT.

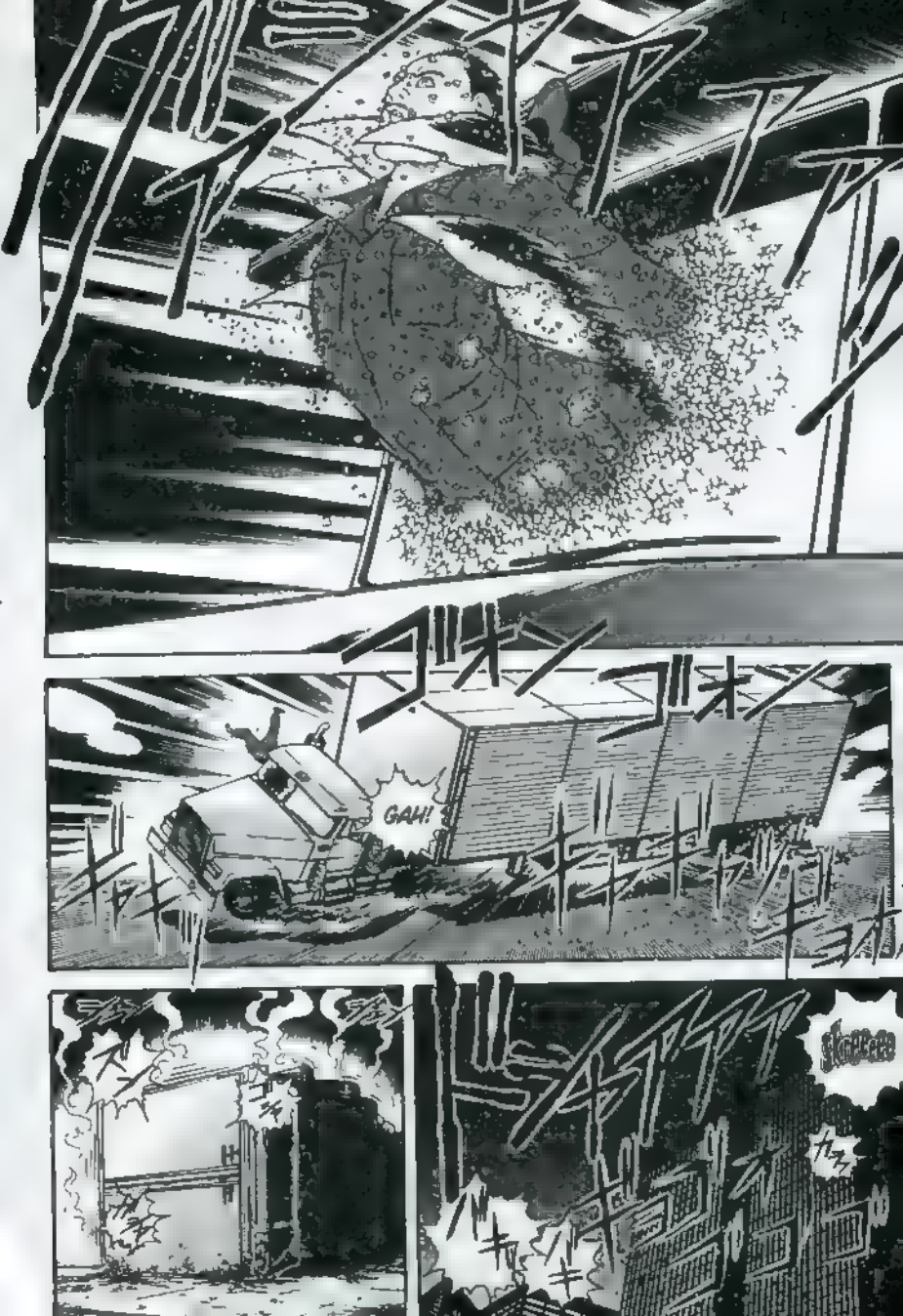
TREMOR II.
THIS IS PROOF OF OUR EFFORTS.

HE IS THE PERFECT FUSION OF ORGANIC TISSUE AND INORGANIC COMPONENTRY.
BEHOLD, COLONEL. OUR FIRST PSYCHO-PLASM-DERIVED CREATION! HE IS THE FIRST OF INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.
WE'VE MADE REAL THE CLONE-CYBORG ORGANISM.
ROBOTICS, CYBORGS, SIMPLE ORGAN TRANSPLANTS. ALL SUFFERED VARIOUS LEVELS OF REJECTION REACTIONS. THE OUTWORLDER SHOWED US HOW TO REMOVE THIS BARRIER.
WHAT OF THE FIRST CLONE MADE OF THE NEW YORK MAFIA MAN?
SO THIS IS TREMOR 2.
HE TURNED THE WORLDS OF BIOLOGY AND PHYSICS ON THEIR HEADS. ALLOWED US TO SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATE ORGANIC WITH NON-ORGANIC MATERIALS AS EASILY AS ONE MIGHT PIECE TOGETHER A JIGSAW PUZZLE. OUR PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED.

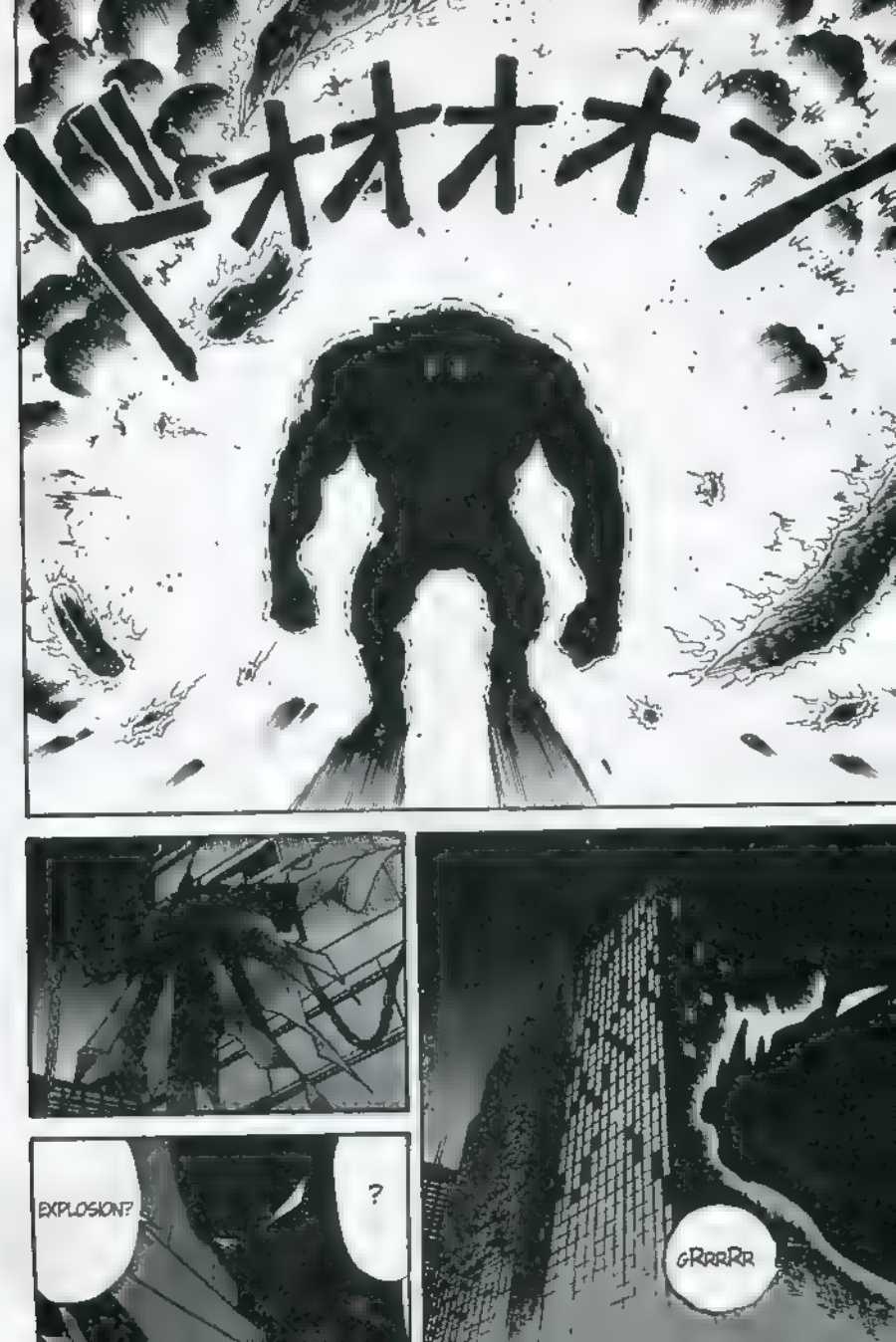
DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF OVER THAT MATTER. THE BOSS OF THE NEW YORK SYNDICATE, IS AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO KEEP ANY MAFIA-ARMY TIES UNDER TIGHT WRAPS.
SO NOW WE'RE DELVING INTO REALMS THAT HUMANS ALONE COULDN'T POSSIBLY DREAM OF EVER ENTERING ON THEIR OWN...
OUR BENEFACTOR HAD SEEN TO THOSE DETAILS...
THERE ARE NO FORMAL OR INFORMAL CONNECTIONS THAT CAN LEAD BACK TO US.
WHY SHOULD THEY BE THE ONLY ONES WITH ACCESS TO THIS TECHNLOGY? HOW DO WE FARE IN R&D AGAINST THE OTHERS?
JASON WYNN. THE C.I.A.
VTOOM!
TONIGHT IS A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE!
IN TERMS OF "PRACTICAL" APPLICATIONS AND MASS PRODUCTION, WE'RE BETTER PLACED THAN EITHER OF THEM.

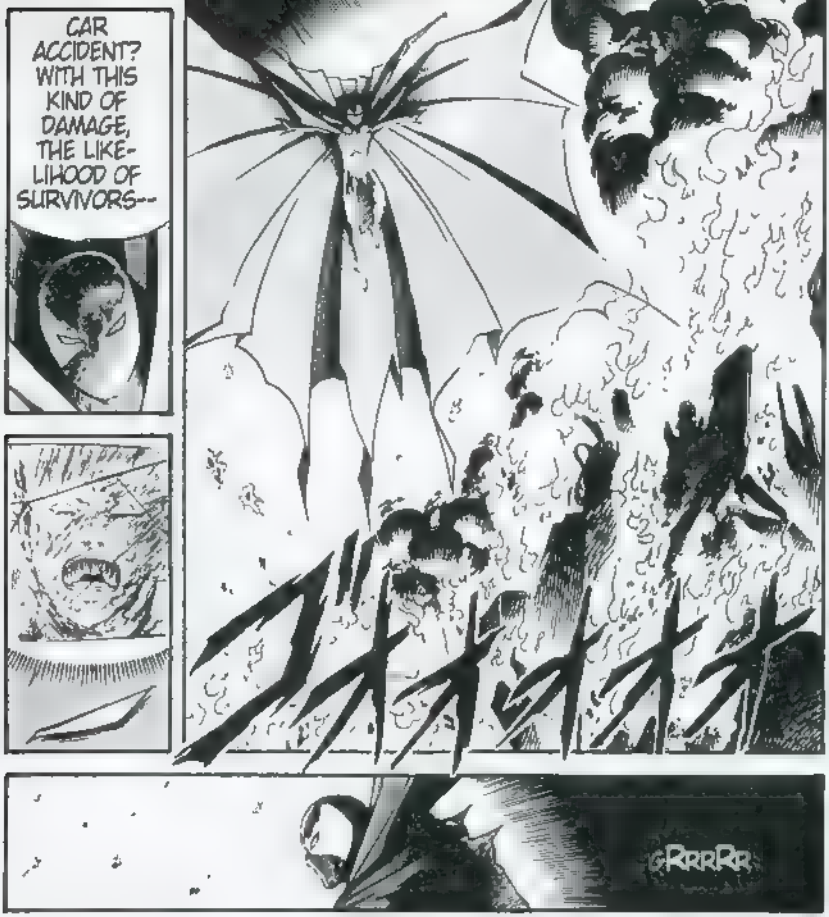
GET US TO WITHIN 150 METERS.
ALL RIGHT.
SIR, WE'RE 450 METERS FROM TARGET.
UNDERSTOOD. ADMINISTERING PRELIMINARY CEREBRAL ELECTRO-STIMULI.
DOCTOR. PLEASE PREPARE OUR NEW TOY FOR HIS FIRST NIGHT OUT.
HUH
PI
PI
HE'S NOW SET TO ACTIVATE IN 120 SECONDS.
NOW ADMINISTERING STAGE TWO CERBRAL STIMULI!
TARGET IS AT 300 METERS.
!?
LASTLY, TIME TO ACTIVATE HIS NEURO-MUSCULAR JUNCTIONS-
TARGET NOW AT 200 METERS.

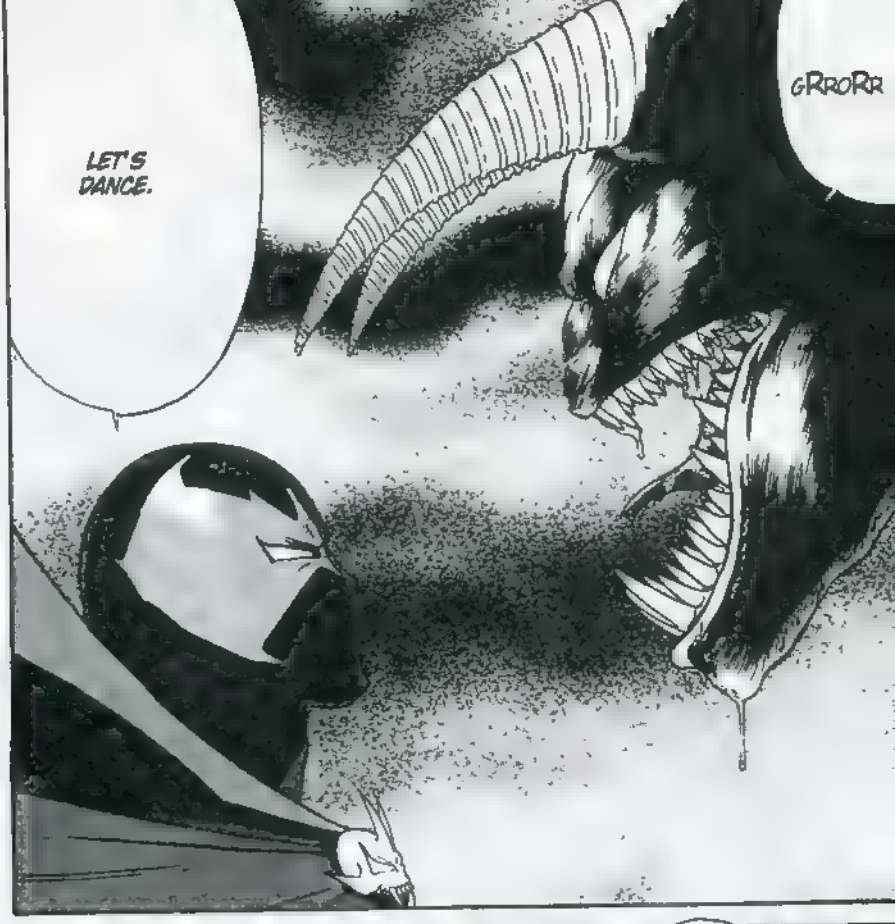

WHAT TH--?!
EMERGENCY
IMPOSSIBLE! HE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE CONSCIOUS!
YOU FEEL THE TRUCK SHAKE JUST NOW?
!?
Thud!
Thud!


GAH!

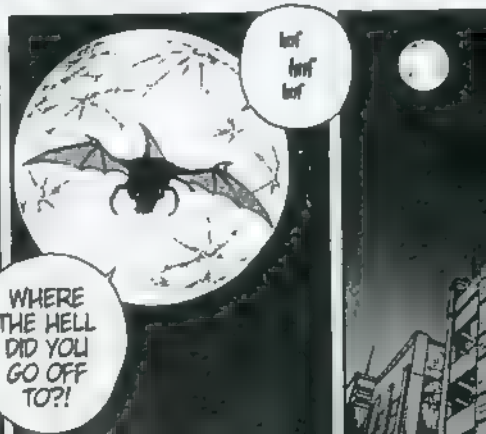
GOOA
AAA
PAA


ドオオオン
EXPLOSION?
?
GRRRRR


CAR ACCIDENT? WITH THIS KIND OF DAMAGE, THE LIKE-LIHOOD OF SURVIVORS--
GRRRRR
I'M FEELING A LITTLE SCRAPPY MYSELF.
FINE.
MALEBOLGIA AT HIS TRICKS AGAIN.
SO THAT'S IT.

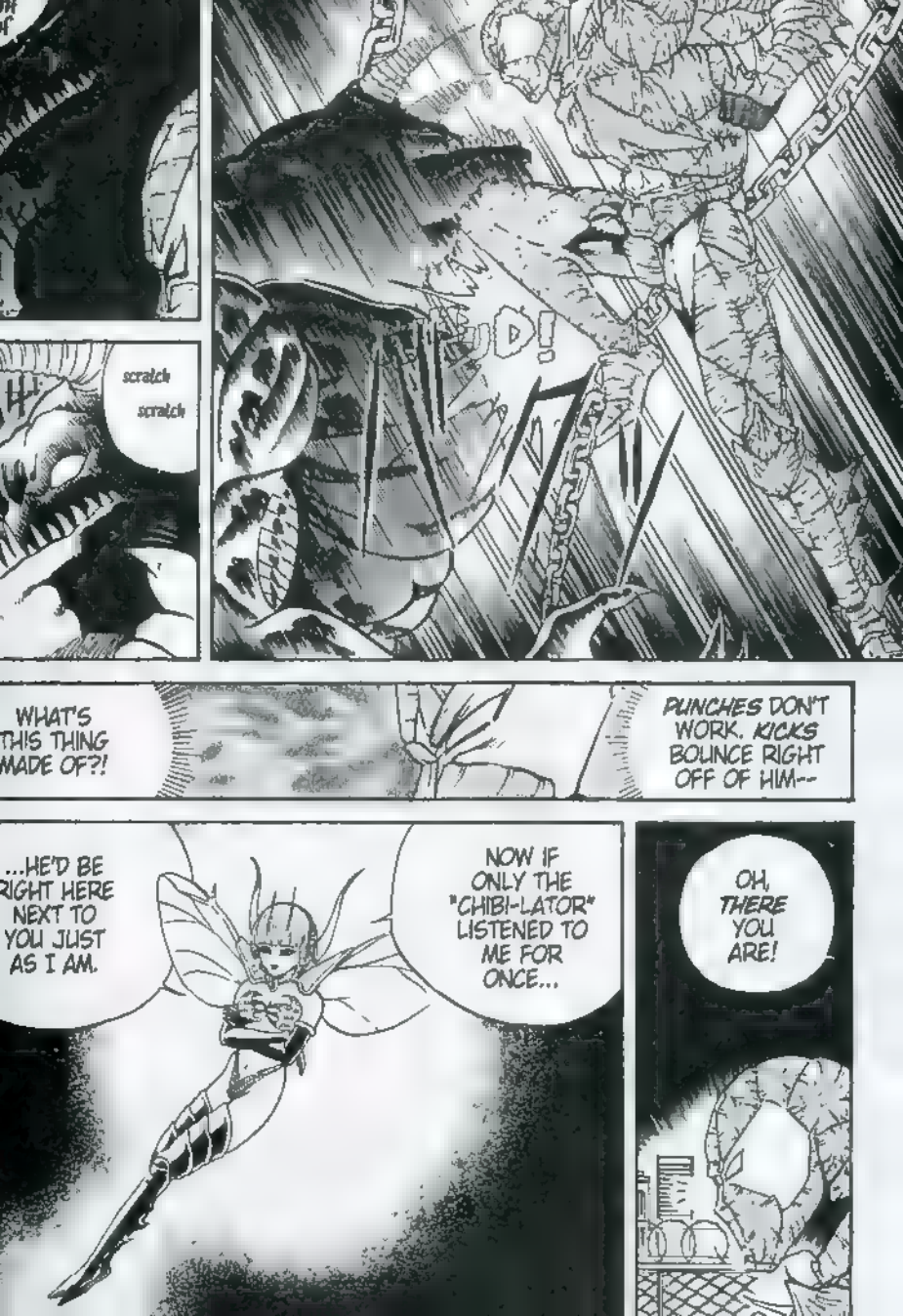

LET'S DANCE.
GRROOR

OH, SURE, YOU'RE CALLED A HELL SPAWN, BUT YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A SHADOW OF A SPAWN!
LITTLE CHICKY RUNNING AROUND WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING HOW TO USE YOUR POWERS...


WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GO OFF TO?!

BUT YOU, YA LITTLE RUNT, YOU'RE JUST A BENCH WARMER, IF THAT!
AL SIMMONS IS THE REAL DEAL, IF EVER THERE WAS ONE.
ONLY PICKING-UP ON PSYCHO-PLASM RESIDUE.
NO. NOT ANY-MORE.
THERE?
?!
PLEASE, OH PLEASE LET ME BE IN TIME!
DAMN IT!
...NOT GOOD.
IF HE LEAKS ANOTHER FIGHT'S WORTH...

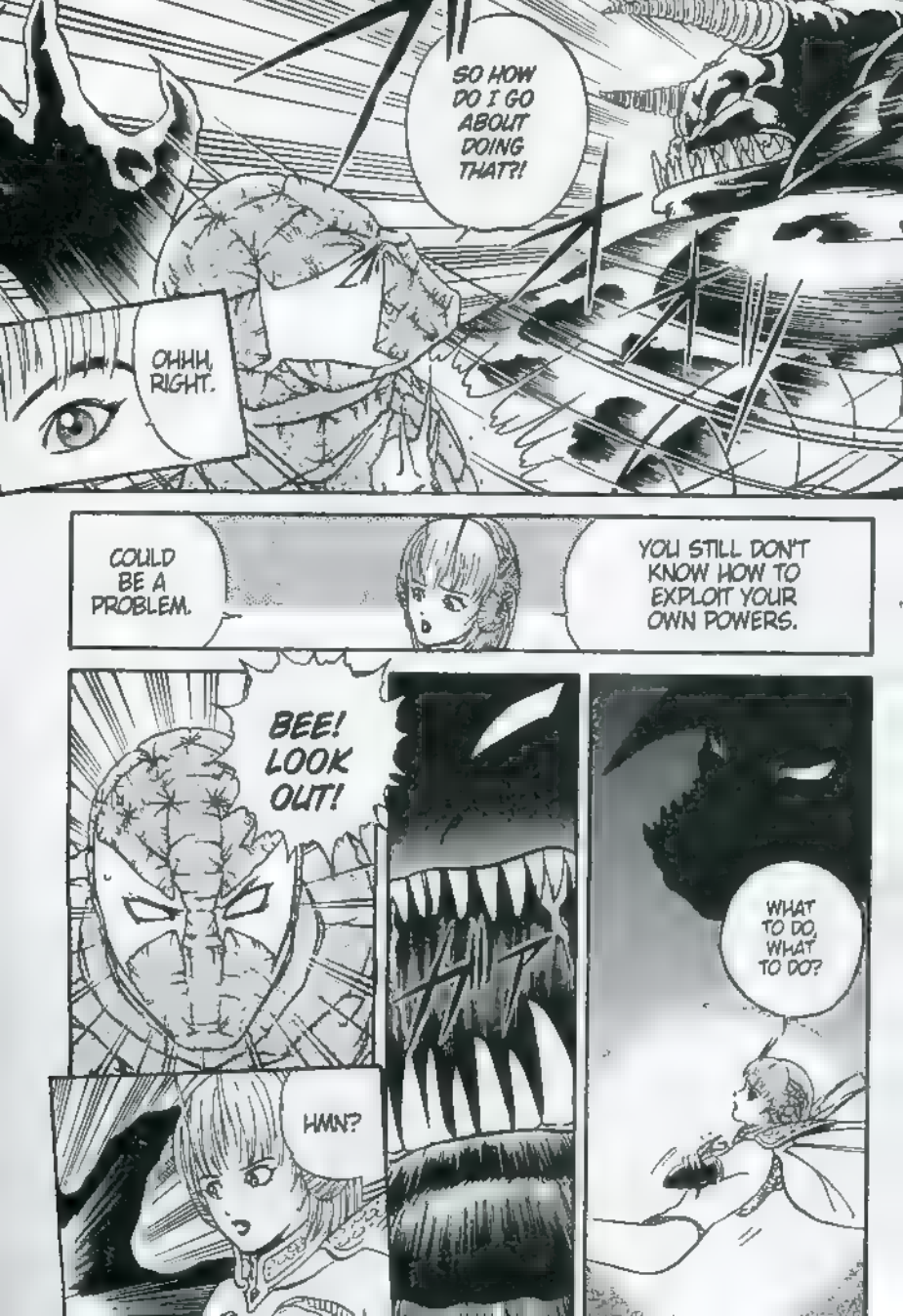
Ching!
NRAH!

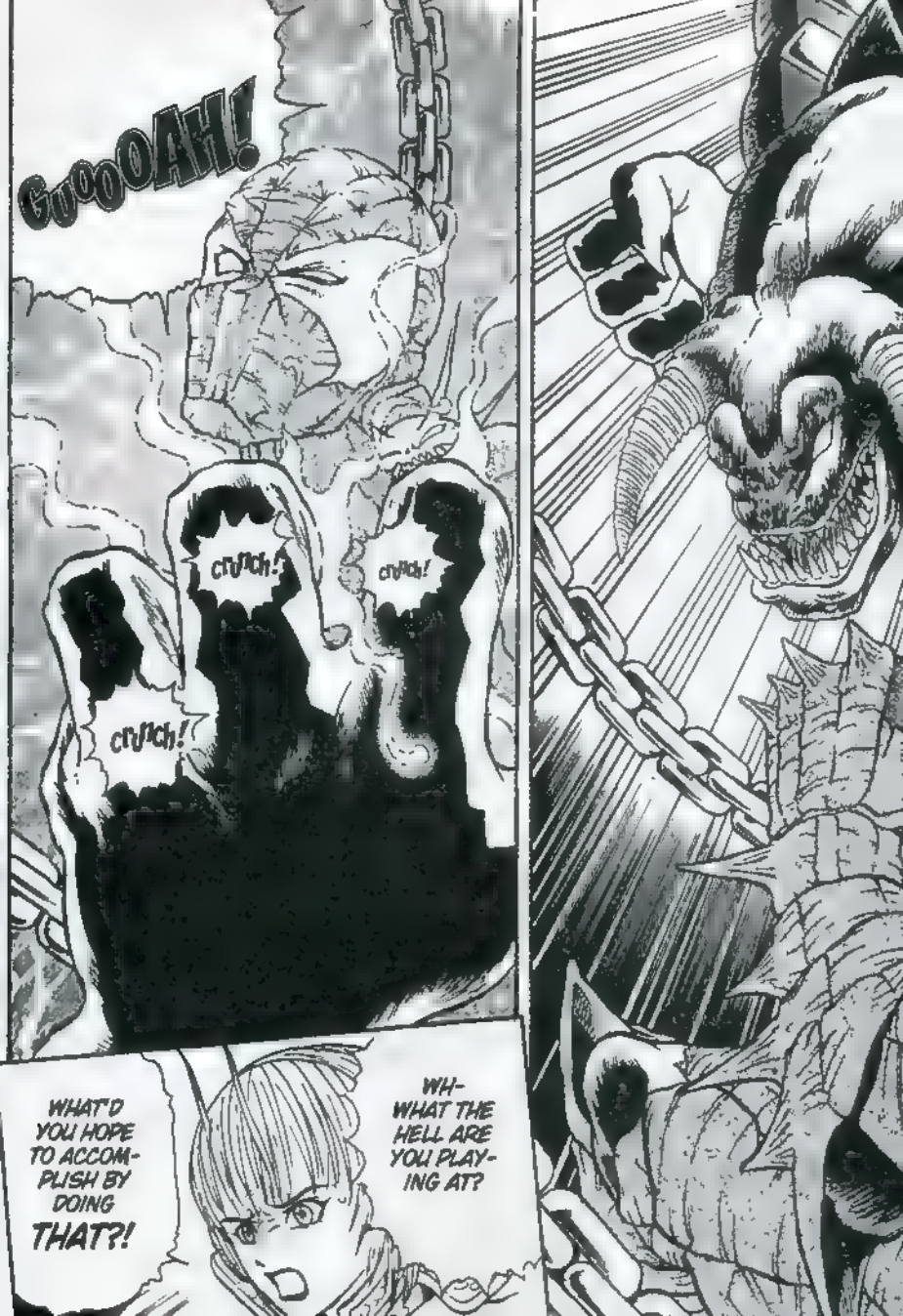

scratch
scratch
D!
WHAT'S THIS THING MADE OF?!
PUNCHES DON'T WORK. KICKS BOUNCE RIGHT OFF OF HIM--
...HE'D BE RIGHT HERE NEXT TO YOU JUST AS I AM.
NOW IF ONLY THE "CHIBI-LATOR" LISTENED TO ME FOR ONCE...
OH, THERE YOU ARE!

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT LITTLE OL' ME?
BEE! STAY BEHIND ME!
YOU'RE SO KIND!
GNF!
!?

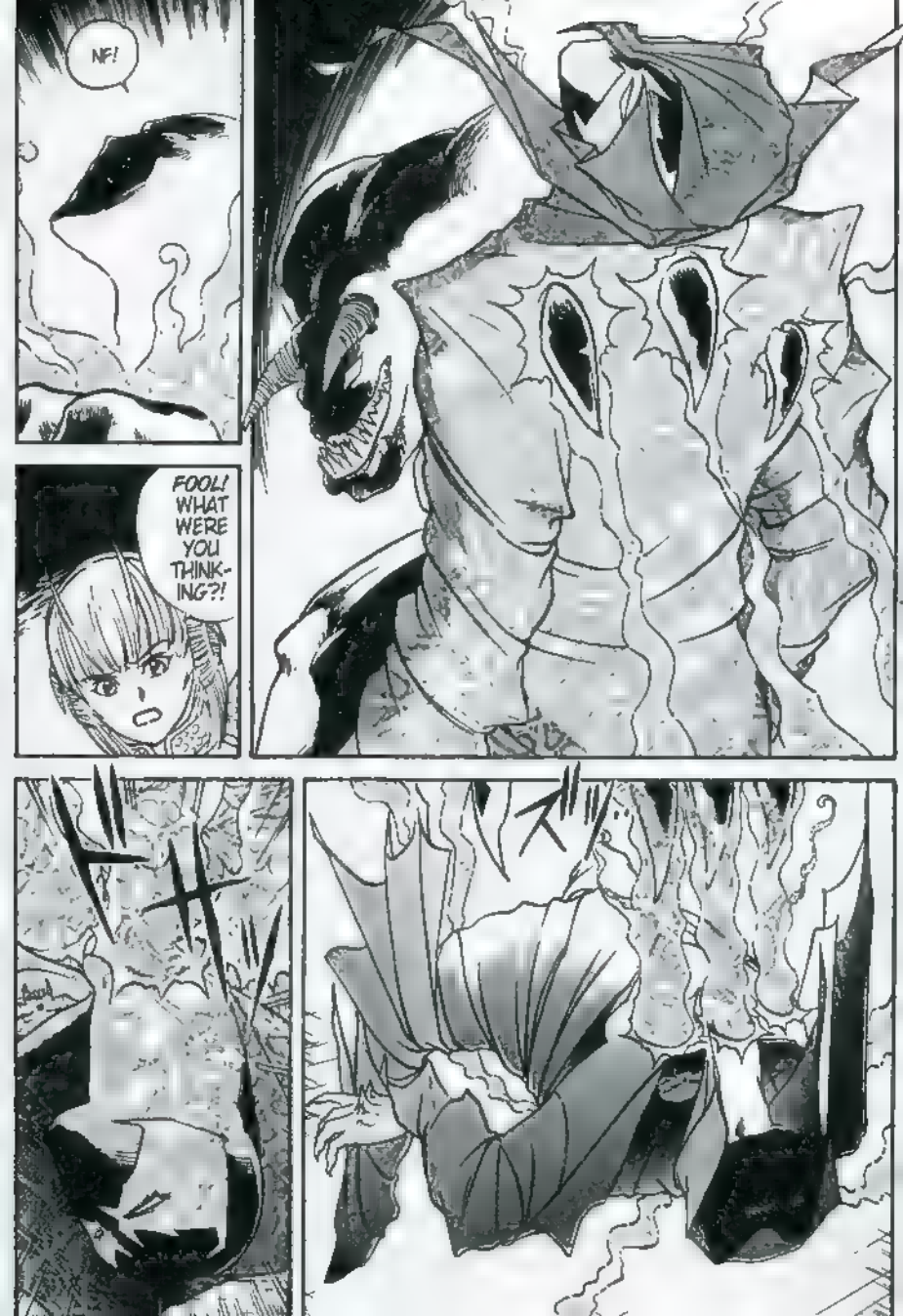
HMMM? DID YOU MEAN TO PROTECT ME BY THROWING YOURSELF IN HARM'S WAY?
NNNG!
TAKING ON A CHALLENGE BY JUMPING INTO A POINTLESS FIGHT SERVES NO PURPOSE, UNDERSTAND?
PHH. WHO ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO GET HURT!
BEE! GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU GET HURT!
ヲォロフ
YOU DON'T REALLY THINK YOUR KARATE IS OF MUCH USE AGAINST AN OPPONENT LIKE THAT, DO YOU?
THE BEHEMOTH YOU'RE NOW BATTLING IS DERIVED FROM THE FORCE OF A TITAN INFUSED WITH PSYCHOPLASM.

YOU STILL DO. THE PSYCHOPLASM IS MIMICKING WHAT YOU CAN REMEMBER FROM YOUR DAYS AS A HUMAN.
IT DOESN'T FEEL PAIN.
IT'S A DESTRUCTIVE ABOMINATION THAT MOVES ON *PURE INSTINCT*, AND THAT ALONE.
THAT... THING. IT'S A MANMADE CLONE CULTURED WITH THE POWER OF PSYCHOPLASM.
TOTAL AND COMPLETE ANNIHILATION!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP SOMETHING SUCH AS THIS.


SO HOW DO I GO ABOUT DOING THAT?!
OHHH, RIGHT.
COULD BE A PROBLEM.
YOU STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLOIT YOUR OWN POWERS.
BEE! LOOK OUT!
HMN?
WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO?

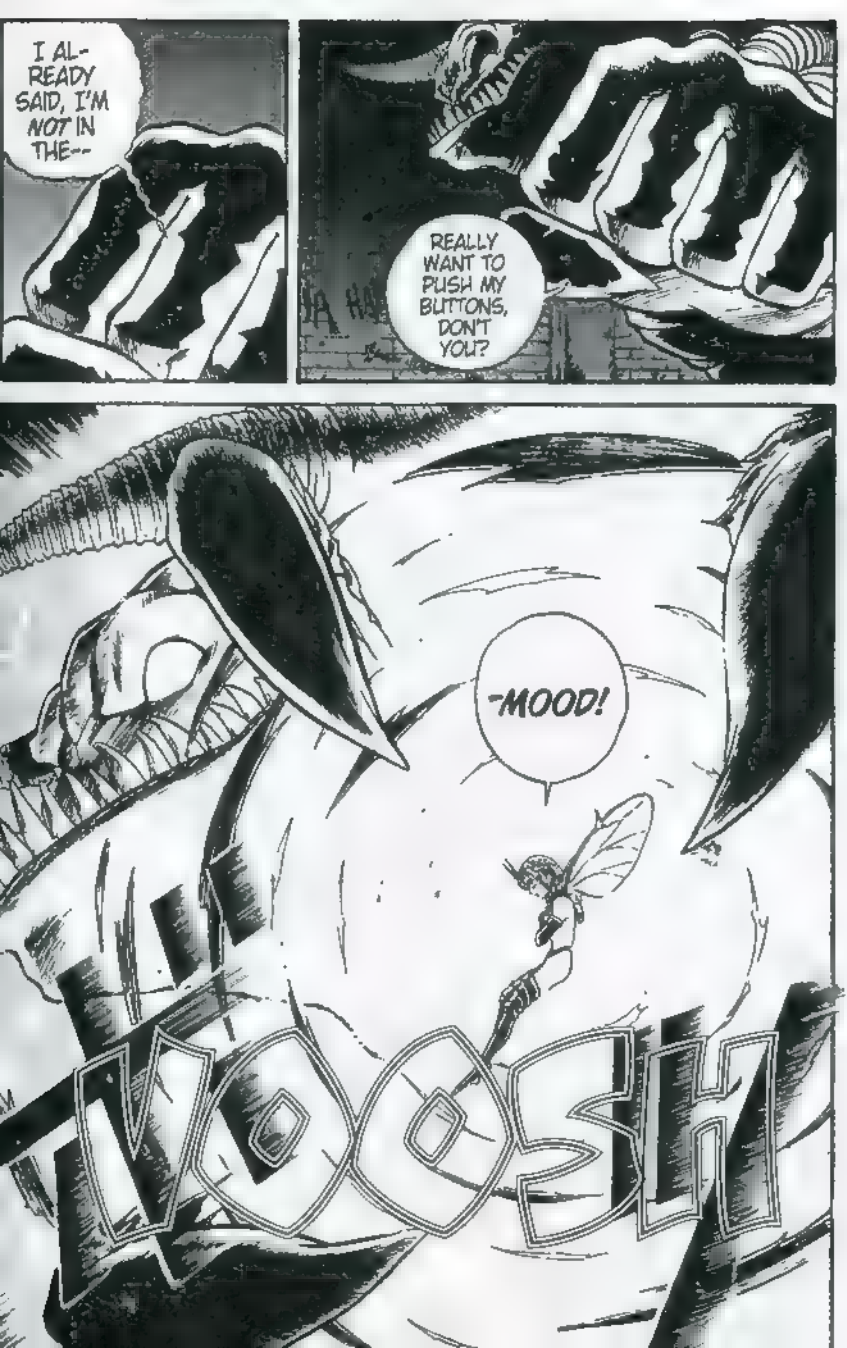

GUOOAH!
crunch!
crunch!
crunch!
WHAT'D YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY DOING THAT?!
WH-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PLAYING AT?

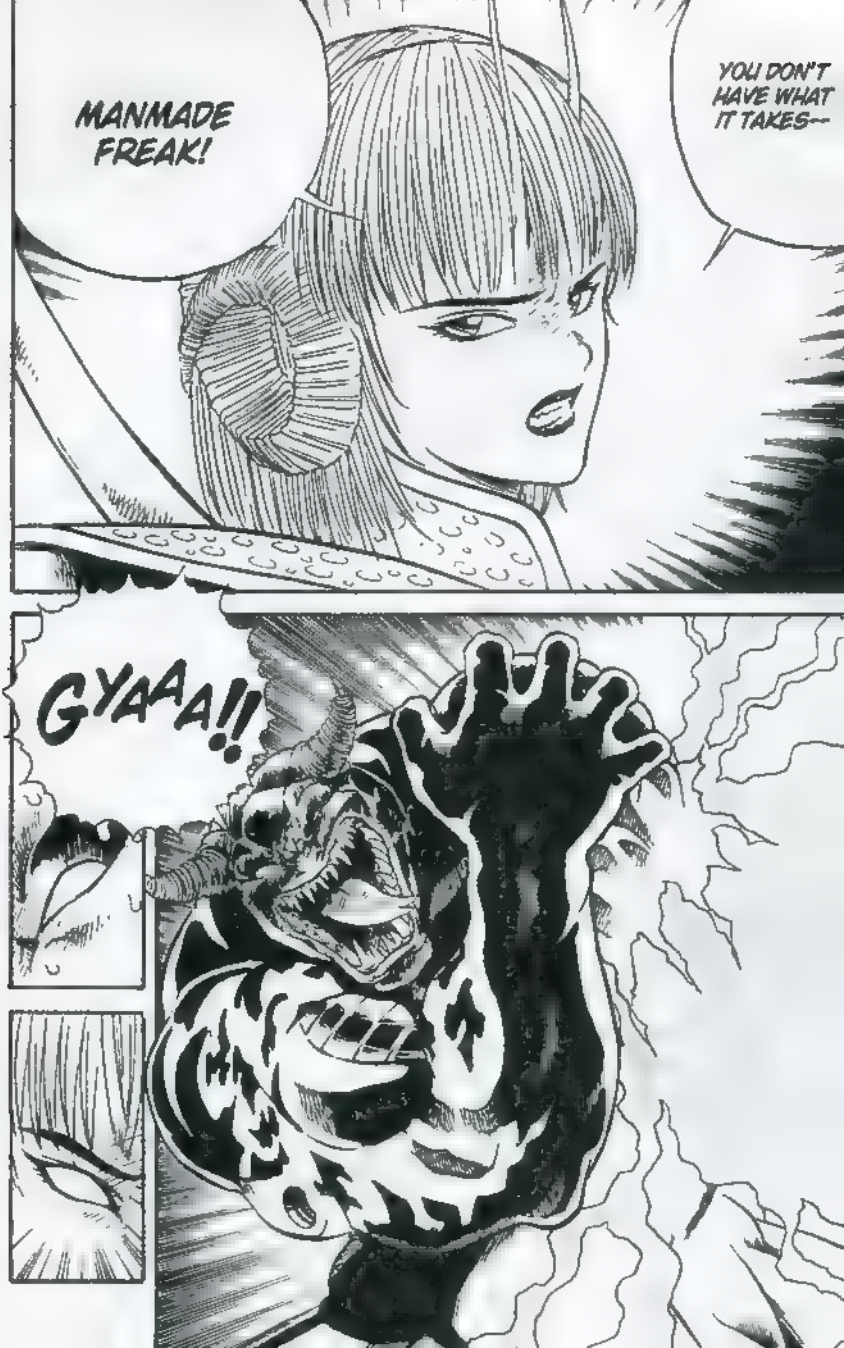
IDIOT...


NF!
FOOL! WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING?!

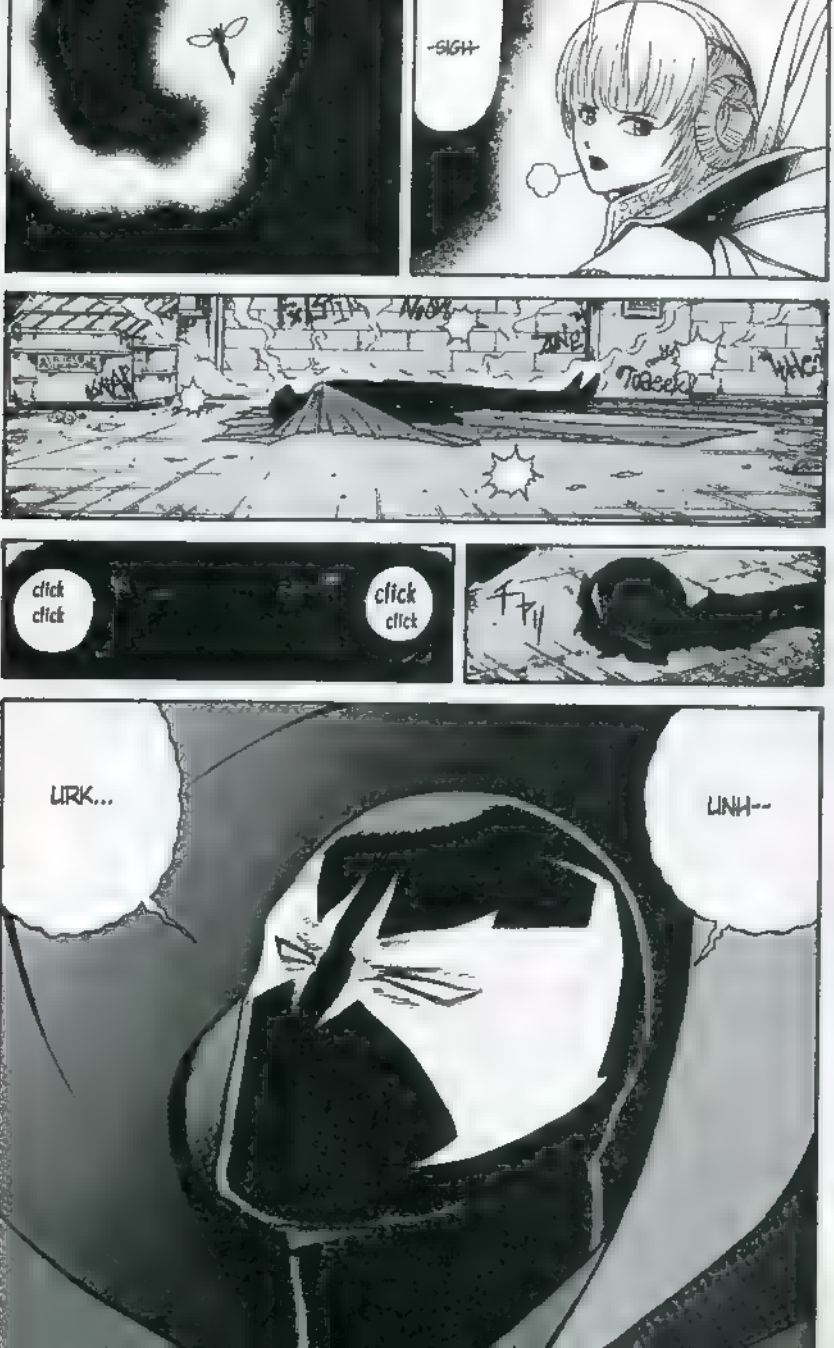
NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU, NOW.
...LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DONE FOR SURE, THIS TIME.
WELL, WELL...
HUNH!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT HIMSELF INTO THIS MESS.
THIS ISN'T MY FAULT, YOU KNOW.
Growr
.....
NOW I'M IN A BAD MOOD.

IDIOTS, ONE AND ALL!
HNGRRRR
DOESN'T EVEN CARE ABOUT HIS OWN WELL BEING---
THIS ONE.
THAT ONE.
IT'S DAMN DEPRESSING IS WHAT IT IS!

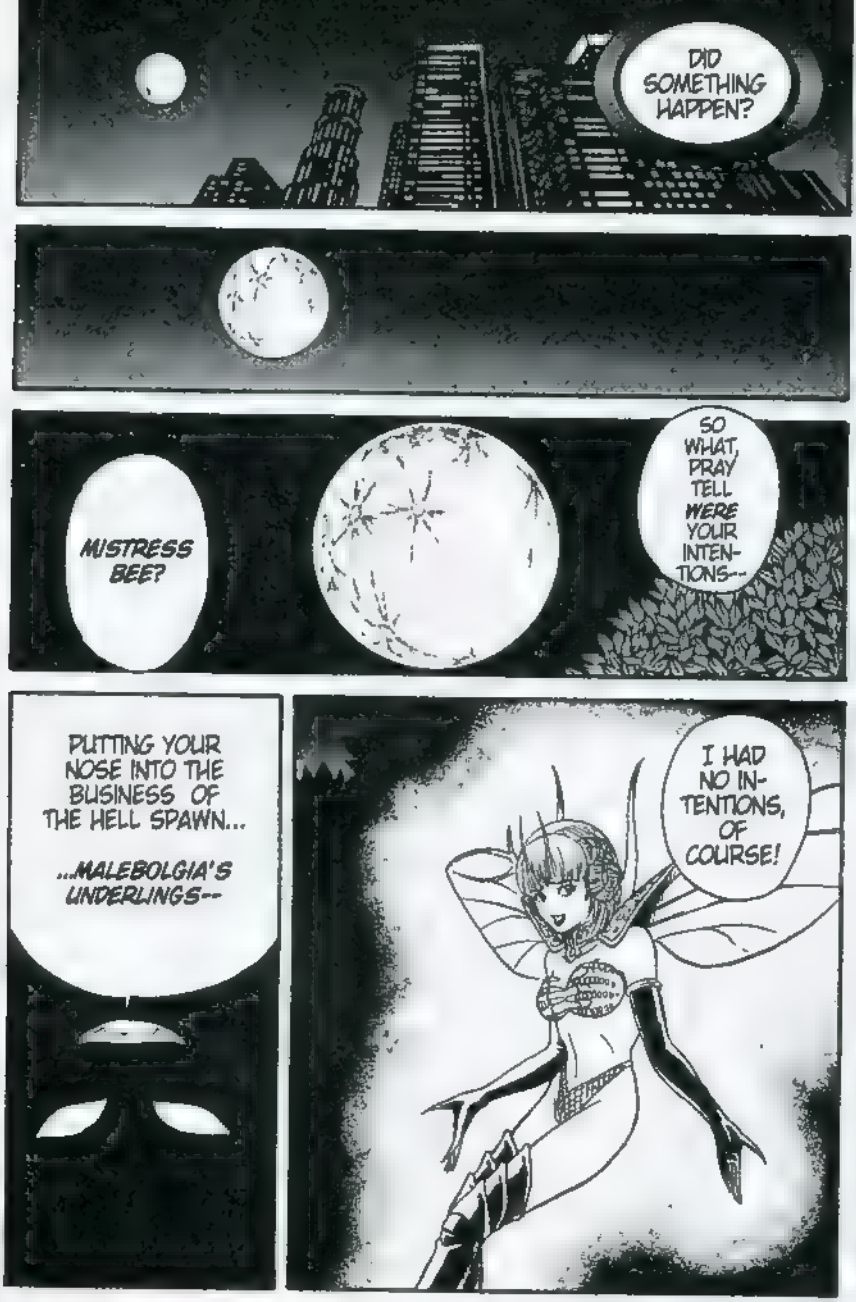

I AL-
READY
SAID, I'M
NOT IN
THE--
REALLY
WANT TO
PUSH MY
BUTTONS,
DON'T
YOU?
-MOOD!
WOOSH!

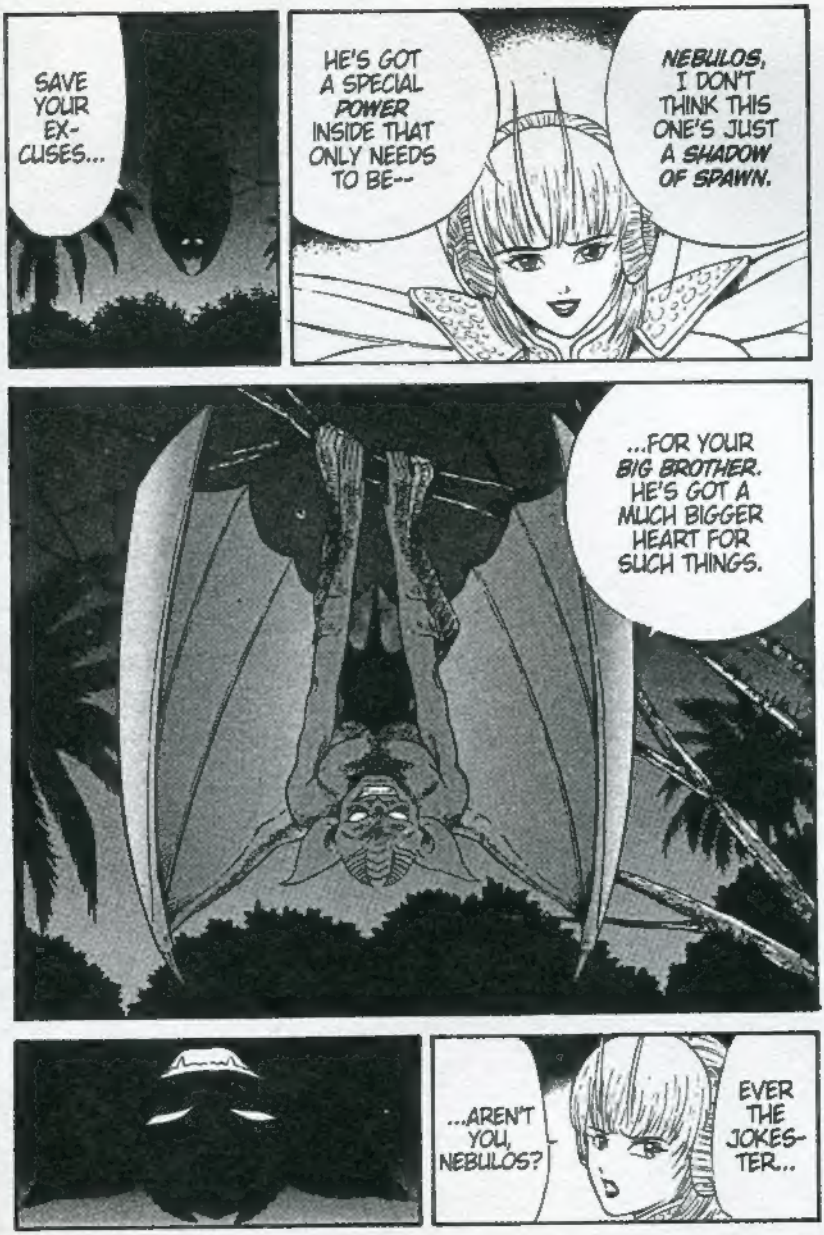

MANMADE FREAK!
YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES--
GYAAA!!

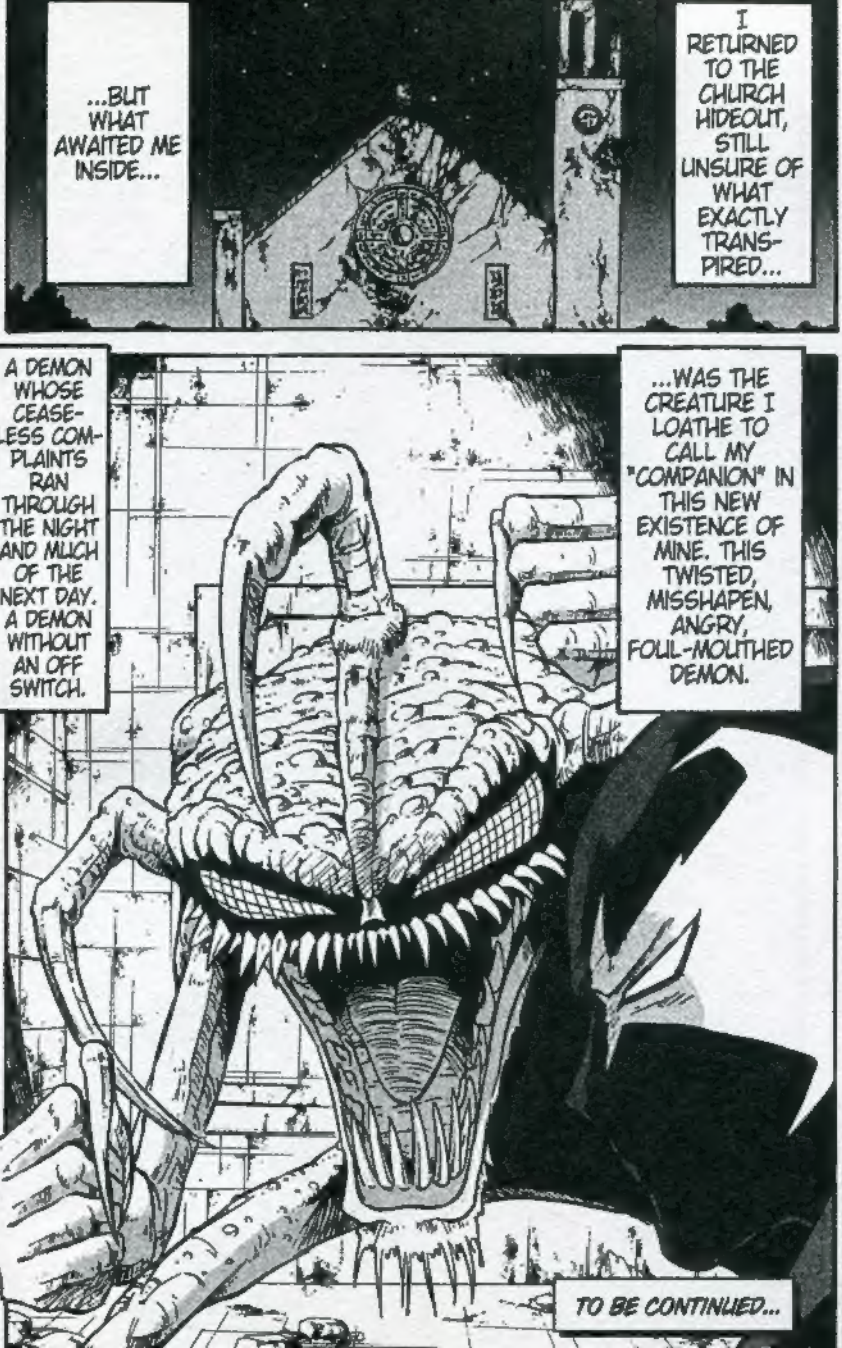
Thud!


-SIGH-
click
click
click
click
URK...
UNH--

??
WHAT--
ME...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT--


DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
MISTRESS BEE?
SO WHAT, PRAY TELL *WERE* YOUR INTENTIONS--
PUTTING YOUR NOSE INTO THE BUSINESS OF THE HELL SPAWN...
...MALEBOLGIA'S UNDERLINGS--
I HAD NO INTENTIONS, OF COURSE!


SAVE YOUR EX-CUSES...
HE'S GOT A SPECIAL *POWER* INSIDE THAT ONLY NEEDS TO BE--
NEBULOS, I DON'T THINK THIS ONE'S JUST A *SHADOW OF SPAWN*.
...FOR YOUR *BIG BROTHER*. HE'S GOT A MUCH BIGGER HEART FOR SUCH THINGS.
...AREN'T YOU, NEBULOS?
EVER THE JOKES-TER...


...BUT WHAT AWAITED ME INSIDE...
I RETURNED TO THE CHURCH HIDEOUT, STILL UNSURE OF WHAT EXACTLY TRANSPIRED...
A DEMON WHOSE CEASELESS COMPLAINTS RAN THROUGH THE NIGHT AND MUCH OF THE NEXT DAY. A DEMON WITHOUT AN OFF SWITCH.
...WAS THE CREATURE I LOATHE TO CALL MY "COMPANION" IN THIS NEW EXISTENCE OF MINE. THIS TWISTED, MISSHAPEN, ANGRY, FOUL-MOUTHED DEMON.
TO BE CONTINUED...

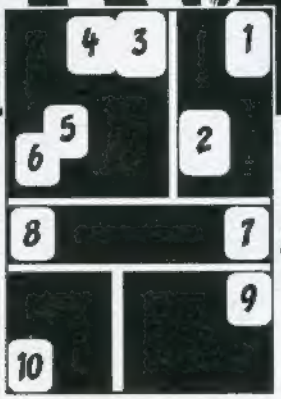
STOP!

This is the BACK of the book!

UH-UH-UH! YOU'RE STARTING AT THE END! AND YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE IT'S TIME, DO YA? THIS BOOK READS FROM RIGHT (THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS BOOK) TO LEFT, JUST AS THE CREATORS WANTED IT.
IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME READING A MANGA, LOOK BELOW AND JUST FOLLOW THE SEQUENCE. IT'S REAL SIMPLE, AND MUCH MORE FUN. YOU KNOW UNCLE VIOLATOR'S WORD IS GOOD, RIGHT?

DIRECTIONS:

PAGES ARE VIEWED, RIGHT TO LEFT. PANEL LAYOUTS IN A REVERSE "Z" SEQUENCE.



PAGE DETAIL

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MANGA!!!

Ken Kurosawa (aka "Double K") is a street smart thug-for-hire. His sole purpose for fighting is to be able to afford care for his ailing sister, Mariko. When Ken is killed by a car bomb, his dying wish is to be at his sister's side for her birthday and to take care of her, always...

Seven years later, Ken returns to Earth as a Hell Spawn. Angry, confused and constantly taunted by the cryptic Clown and the faerie-like Beelzebub, he learns that there is much more to death than simply dying...and that promises can be twisted to belie their good intentions.

So begins one man's search to rediscover his identity while adapting to a host of new abilities given to him by a "lower power." The mysteries of death are only the beginning of something far more dangerous.

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